

A Publication of New Hope Telephone Cooperative

The

# Communicator

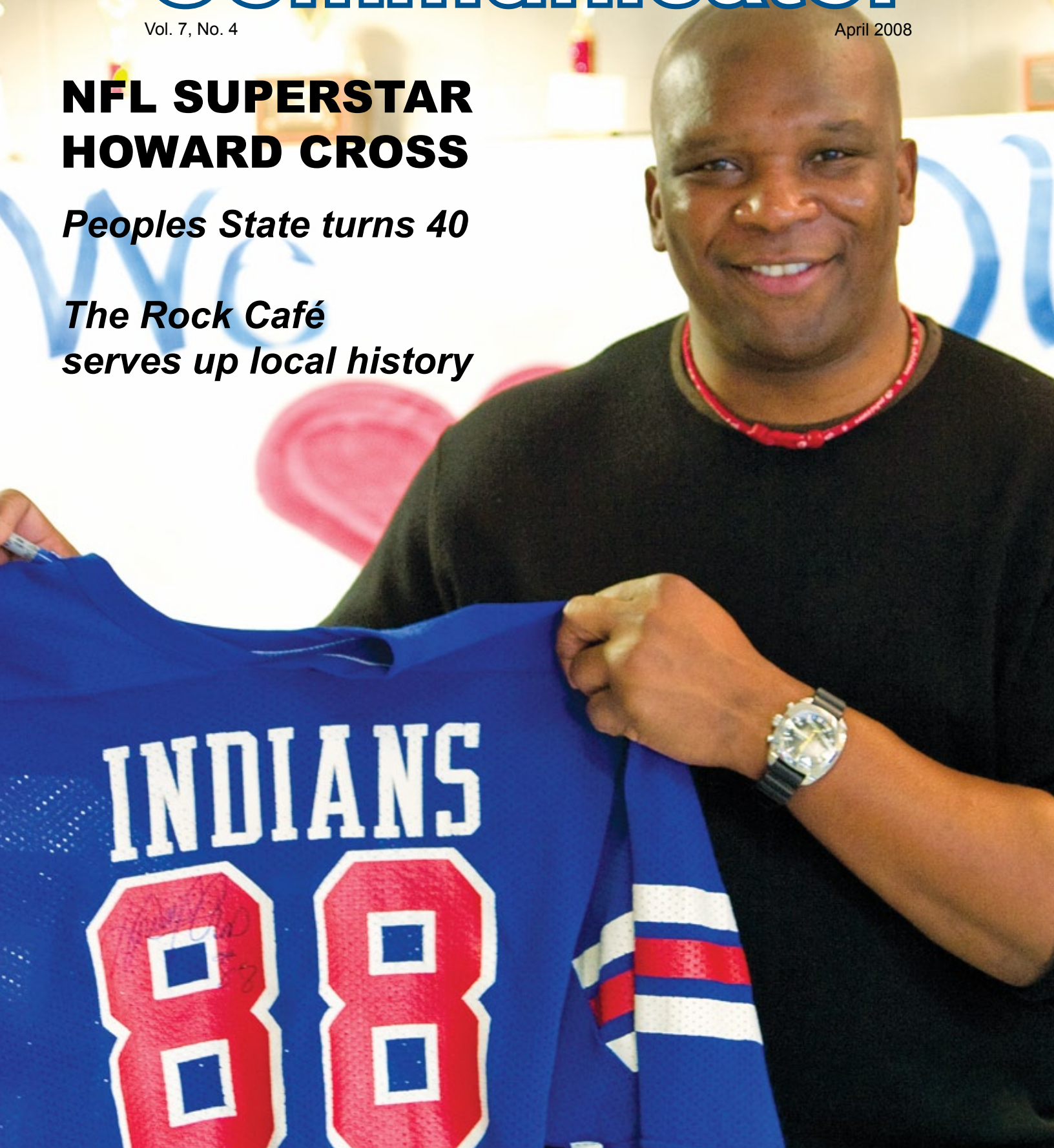
Vol. 7, No. 4

April 2008

## **NFL SUPERSTAR HOWARD CROSS**

*Peoples State turns 40*

*The Rock Café  
serves up local history*



## Manager's Comments

### It's that time of year again...

One thing I've learned since moving here is that, in Alabama, there is always a 100 percent chance of weather! I've seen hot weather, freezing temperatures, snowfall, drought, soaking rains, thunderstorms, tornado warnings...and I haven't even been here a year yet!

Like many of you, I am looking forward to the spring season, but I know that with the blooming flowers and budding trees comes the very real threat of severe weather.

Emergency operations planning was among my duties at the telecommunications company where I worked in South Carolina. I learned some valuable lessons in that environment, where a hurricane could disable your entire network in one day. Above all, I learned that it pays to hope for the best and prepare for the worst.

In the severe weather that passed through North Alabama in February, several of our employees said they never heard the weather sirens that are supposed to warn us that dangerous weather is approaching. In my opinion, this is a perfect example of why every home should have a weather radio.

I keep our weather radio in another room, so that if it goes off during the night I have to get out of bed and leave my bedroom in order to turn it off. That

keeps me from rolling over and slapping it off without ever waking up completely. It gets my attention.

Weather radios are loud. You will wake up when one goes off. Even if you can't hear the siren a few miles down the road, your weather radio will make sure you know about the severe weather in your area.

I encourage every one of our members to buy a weather radio for their home. You can find one for around \$25. Your life and the lives of your family members are certainly worth that small expense!

Not only is it 'that time of year' to plan for weather safety, it's also time to start thinking about your cooperative's Annual Meeting. In May, New Hope Telephone Cooperative will gather for its Annual Meeting of the membership, where we will update you on the progress we are making in our fiber install and other programs. Make plans now to come visit with friends, win door prizes, and learn more about your NHTC!▲



*Tom Wing is General Manager of New Hope Telephone Cooperative*

### 2008 Telephone Directory Corrections

The following listings were inadvertently left out of the NHTC directory. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

<b>Alan B. Butler</b>	<b>Joann &amp; Tyler Dennis</b>	<b>The Rock Café &amp; Catering</b>	<b>Madison County Courthouse</b>
<b>723-4264</b>	<b>728-5432</b>	<b>723-5656</b>	<b>723-5123</b>

## New Hope Telephone Cooperative

Your Communications Connection

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

#### Board of Directors

Greg Glover, President  
*Owens Cross Roads Exchange*

Jimmy Segler, Vice President  
*Grant Exchange*

Jim Duncan, Secretary  
*New Hope Exchange*

David Ayers, Treasurer  
*Grant Exchange*

Sonny Cantrell  
*Grant Exchange*

Jeff Cooper  
*New Hope Exchange*

Garland Elders  
*Owens Cross Roads Exchange*

Barry Jones  
*New Hope Exchange*

Barry Mefford  
*New Hope Exchange*

#### The Communicator

Vol. 7, No. 4 April 2008

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**New Hope Telephone Cooperative**  
P.O. Box 452  
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[www.nehp.net](http://www.nehp.net)

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*On the cover:  
Former NHHS football player, Howard Cross, who played 13 years in the NFL is shown with his old jersey. The school is retiring his number. Read about Cross' visit to NHHS on page 8.*



# It's a different world online

Quick. What's the fastest growing crime in the United States? If you guessed identity theft, you're right. Last year alone more than 15 million Americans reported they were victims of identity theft.

Although it's true people have been casualties of identity crimes for years, there has never been a time in history when it has been this widespread. The Internet is partly to blame for the increase.

The Internet is a great tool for research, education, shopping and entertainment. But it has also become a place where thieves look for unsuspecting victims.

Financial institutions lost nearly \$48 billion dollars to ID theft last year — an average of \$10,000 per victim.

Follow these safety tips to protect yourself:

- Never keep personal information on your hard drive.
- Don't give your name, date of birth or Social Security number out online.
- Use dynamic passwords to protect your online accounts. Include capital and lower case letters, as well as numbers and symbols, such as c\$Nth1#stP. This will make it harder to decipher.
- Only shop online at secure sites. Look for the padlock icon in the lower right section of the screen.
- Check your credit report for errors.
- Call online companies to verify they are legitimate.
- Make sure you see "https" in the URL. This indicates that you are using a site that is encrypted with a secure socket

layer (SSL) for protection of sensitive information.

- Cancel and closeout accounts for any unused credit cards.
- Keep your security software updated

Phishing scams are really popular with thieves, too. The IRS reports that tax return season is a high risk time of year for these scams. Thieves will send emails and are even calling victims in an attempt to gain enough personal information to steal their identity.

If you receive an email from your bank or the IRS do not respond. Contact local law enforcement to report a suspicious email.

Find more useful tips to keep safe online at [www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/](http://www.ftc.gov/bcp/edu/microsites/idtheft/). ▲



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# Excerpts from Bylaws on Voting Procedure to Elect Board Members

## Article IV Board Members

Section 1. General Powers. The business and affairs of the Cooperative shall be managed by a board of directors, consisting of nine (9) members. The membership of the Board of Directors shall be based as follows:

New Hope, four (4) members on the Board of Directors; Owens Cross Roads, two (2) members on the Board of Directors; and Grant, three (3) members on the Board of Directors.

Section 2. Election and Tenure of Office. The persons presently serving as directors of the cooperative shall compose the Board until the first annual meeting or until their successors shall be elected by a secret ballot at each annual meeting of the members, beginning with the year 1984 by and from the members at large to serve until the next annual meeting of the members or until their successors shall have been elected and shall have qualified. If an election of directors shall not be held on the day designated herein for the annual meeting, or at any adjournment thereof, a special meeting of the members shall be held for the purpose of electing directors within a reasonable time thereafter. Directors may be elected by a plurality vote of the members. All elected directors shall serve a term of four (4) years provided they do not resign or are not removed from office by the members. All directors terms will be staggered so that two (2) are elected each year, except in 1987 three (3) members of the Board of Directors shall be elected and every four (4) years thereafter; i.e., 1991, 1995, etc., three (3) members of the Board of Directors shall be elected.

Section 3. Qualifications. No

person shall be eligible to become or remain a board member of the cooperative who:

- a) Is not a member of the Cooperative; and
- b) Is not a bona fide resident of the respective exchange from which said Board member was elected.
- c) Is in any way employed by or financially interested in a competing enterprise or a business engaged in selling or reselling telephone service or supplies, or constructing or maintaining telephone facilities, other than a business operating on a cooperative non-profit basis for the purpose of furthering rural telephony.

Upon establishment of the fact that a board member is holding the office in violation of any of the foregoing provisions, the board shall remove such board member from office.

Nothing contained in this section shall affect in any manner whatsoever the validity of any action taken at any meeting of the board.

Section 4. Nominations. It shall be the duty of the board to appoint, not less than thirty (30) days nor more than seventy five (75) days before the date of a meeting of the members at which board members are to be elected, a three member (3) committee on nominations consisting of one (1) member from each exchange, so as to insure equitable representation. No member of the board may serve on such committee. The committee keeping in mind the principle of equitable representation, shall prepare and post at the principle office of the Cooperative at least twenty (20) days before the meeting a list of nominations for board members which

shall include at least two candidates for each board position to be filled by the election. The Secretary shall be responsible for mailing with the notice of the meeting or separately, but at least ten (10) days before the date of the meeting, a statement of the number of board members to be elected and the names and addresses of the candidates nominated by the committee on nominations. Any fifty (50) or more members acting together may make other nominations by petition and the Secretary shall post such nominations at the same place where the list of nominations made by the committee is posted. Nominations made by petition, if any, received at least five (5) days before the meeting shall be included on the official ballot. Later nominations by petition shall be treated as nominations from the floor. The chairman shall call for additional nominations from the floor and nominations shall not be closed until at least one minute has passed during which no additional nominations has been made. No member may nominate more than one candidate, for the same position.

Any nominee by petition or from the floor must meet the qualifications stated in the Bylaws, Article IV, Section 3.

Section 5. Failure of Action by the Nominating Committee. In the event the nominating committee fails to make a report after 3 requests by the Secretary and having been notified and appointed in accordance with the Bylaws Article IV Section 4, it shall be the duty of the Board of Directors to make said nominations or nominations based upon the guidelines set out in the Bylaws, Article IV, Sections 1 through 4.



# NHTC: We're owned by those we serve

Local business leaders seeking a way to bring telephone service into our rural community established New Hope Telephone Cooperative in the early 1950's. Today, thanks to their foresight, members have the same high-quality services as people in large metropolitan areas.

But you may not know when you signed-up for telephone, Internet or cable service from NHTC, you became part owner in the company. That's how cooperatives work.

Each member in a cooperative is also a part owner in the business. And unlike other businesses whose sole purpose is profit, members of a cooperative have a direct say in how the business is run.

There are a few basic principles that direct cooperative-based businesses.

1. Open Membership - anyone who can use the services of a cooperative and is willing to accept the responsibilities of membership is eligible to join

2. Controlled Democratically - members participate in electing board members, who in turn represent the membership when making decisions about what is best for the company. Members may also be called upon to vote on specific issues

3. Provide Service - providing members with quality services at affordable prices is what drives the cooperative, not profit-making

4. Returning Profit - margins above and beyond the costs required to cover the operating expenses are returned to members in the form of capital credit refunds



## New Hope Telephone Cooperative

# 2008 ANNUAL MEETING

## Tuesday, May 20

New Hope Middle School  
Lunchroom & Auditorium

**Registration begins at 5 p.m.  
in the lunchroom**

**Business Meeting starts at  
7:30 p.m. in the auditorium**

**ENTERTAINMENT & DOOR PRIZES**

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# “Don’t Let the Door Hit You in the Rear On the Way Out”

I’m Nelson Payne of New Hope. I did something a while back that changed my life. Here’s my story.

I’ve been in chronic pain for years. I deal with neck, back and shoulder pain on a daily basis. I’ve gone to several clinics over the years, but when they find out that I do not have insurance, they just write me a prescription and say “*don’t let the door hit you in the rear on your way out.*”

A couple of years ago I decided to try a different doctor, who’s office is in Grant. He didn’t care that I did not have insurance; he treated me the same as the guy who had great health benefits. Dr. Mike did an exam, took some x-rays, and then adjusted my spine, and shoulders. I’ve talk Dr. Mike many times since that day, “*if I had known adjustments would help this much, I would have come here a long time ago.*”

*Oh, did I mention that this doctor is a Chiropractor?* Today I’m not on near as much pain medication, and recently he’s helped me with my TMJ problem, too? I would highly recommend Dr. Mike.

Now for Emma, who is the little girl in the photo. About a year ago, she was plagued by asthma. Each day as I changed her diaper, I would give her an adjustment. The asthma started to improve immediately, and now she is virtually symptom free.

The other child, my son Nicholas, has recently been having some headaches. He’ll come up to me and say, “Daddy, adjust my neck.” And even before he gets up he’ll say, “man that feels a lot better, it’s all gone.”

It’s strange how life is, because now people come to see me with their carpal tunnel syndrome problems. Also they come to me with their headaches, migraines, chronic pain, neck pain, shoulder/arm pain, whiplash from car accidents, backaches, ear infections, asthma, allergies, numbness in limbs, athletic injuries, just to name a few. Here’s what some of my

patients had to say:

*“Dr. Mike has been helping me with my low back pain, and headaches for over nine years.” (Larry Luttrell)*

*“My sciatica stays in check thanks to Dr. Mike.” (Leonard McPeters)*



**Dr. Mike, Emma, and Nicholas Ellis**

Being a chiropractor can be tough, because there’s a host of so-called experts out there. They tell people a lot of things that are just plain ridiculous about my profession. But the studies speak for themselves, like the Virginia study that showed that over 90% of patients who saw a chiropractor were satisfied with their results. That’s just incredible!

Forty-eight million Americans no longer have health insurance, and those who do have found that their benefits are reduced. That’s where chiropractic comes in. Many people find that they actually save money on their health care expenses by seeing a chiropractor. Another way to save... studies show that chiropractic may double your immune capacity, naturally and without drugs. The immune system fights colds, the flu, and other sicknesses. So you may not be running off to the doctor as much. This is especially important if you are self-employed. And an entire week of care in my office may cost what you could pay for one visit elsewhere.

You benefit from an Amazing Offer - Look, it shouldn’t cost you an arm and a leg to correct your health. You are going to write a check to someone for your health care expenses, you

may as well write one for a lesser amount for chiropractic. *When you bring in this article by April 28, 2008, you will receive my entire new patient exam for \$27. That’s with x-rays...the whole ball of wax.* And, further care is very affordable. You see, I’m not trying to seduce you to come see me with this low start up fee, then to only make it up with high fees after that. Further care is very important to consider when making your choice of doctor. High costs can add up very quickly. By law, we must state that additional charges may be incurred for related services which may be required in individual cases. Results may vary in individual cases.

**Great care at a great fee...** Please, I hope that there’s no misunderstanding about **quality of care** just because I have a lower exam fee. You’ll get great care at a great fee. My qualifications... I’m a 1991 graduate of Life University. I’m certified by the National Boards as well as the states of Alabama and Tennessee. I’ve practiced in Marshall County for 14 years after a one-year associateship in Huntsville. I just have that low exam fee to help more people who need care. Results may vary in individual cases.

My assistant is Sandy and she is a really great person. Our office is both friendly and warm and we try our best to make you feel at home. We have a wonderful service, at an exceptional fee. Our office is called **ELLIS CHIROPRACTIC CENTER** and it is at 4664 Main Street in Grant. Our number is **256-728-2044**. Call Sandy or me today for an appointment. We can help you. Thank you.

- Michael Ellis, D.C.

P.S. When accompanied by the first, I am also offering the second family member this same examination for only \$10.

P.P.S. Can you imagine not having to wait at a doctor’s office? Well, your time is as valuable as mine. That’s why we have a no-wait policy. You will be seen within minutes of your appointment.



# 'The Big Read' comes to New Hope

Bobbie Keane, librarian for New Hope Public Library says they have planned several events to encourage reading throughout the summer for people of all ages.

The library has been selected to participate in 'The Big Read', a program established to help restore reading to the center of American culture. It is funded by the Madison County Library System in partnership with the National Endowment for the Arts.

*The Maltese Falcon* has been selected as the book for the big read. "This detective novel is a famous classic from the 1930's," says Keane.

Anyone who would like to participate in 'The Big Read' is encouraged to do so. The library will have a showing

of the movie with the same title featuring Humphrey Bogart as detective Sam Spade. This will be held on April 15 at 7:00 p.m. and everyone is invited to attend.

There are also several other events planned by the library. They are listed here with the date and time for each.

• **Genealogy 101 class** - Saturday, April 12, at 7:00 p.m. - If you are interested in tracing your ancestry, this class offers details on where and how to begin. It is offered free of charge.

• **Friends of the Library Meeting** - Thursday, April 3, at 6:00 p.m. - (*This meeting is held the first Thursday of each month*) This group of concerned citizens plans fundraisers for the library, helps develop events and plan for the library's

future. Anyone interested in helping with ideas, planning, volunteer work or even with donations is encouraged to attend.

• **Story Time** - Every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m. - Bring your toddler or preschooler by the library to have wonderful stories read to them. It is a fantastic way to introduce your child to a love of books and reading.

Stop by the library to find out more details on their summer reading program, too. "We always have a terrific response," says Keane. "Our kids read thousands of pages. We rival many larger cities."

Business hours for the library are:

Monday 2 - 8 p.m.

Tuesday & Thursday 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.

Closed Wednesday

Friday & Saturday 10 a.m. - 1 p.m.

Closed Sunday



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# Peoples State Bank celebrates milestone

## *Employees have seen many changes over the last 40 years*

Peoples State Bank of Commerce in Grant recently threw a party for their customers and employees to commemorate their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. The lobby was filled with balloons, customers, old friends and classic stories as participants celebrated and enjoyed refreshments and door prizes.

"We had hundreds of people come by," reported Josh Barnes, Assistant Vice-president, of the day long celebration. "Several former and retired employees came by for a visit, and that was exciting."

Many of the employees at Peoples have been on staff more than 20 years. "We don't have an employee who has been here since we opened in 1968, but Jeanette Hall retired last year after 35 years of service," says Barnes. "We are practically a family here."

Teller Bobbie Edmonds can certainly attest to that. She has been at the bank for 24 years. "At one time or another all eight of my children worked here," Edmonds tells. Most have gone on to pursue other careers, but her daughter Sharon has followed in her mother's footsteps by making banking her career.

Brenda Barnes, bank president, and her secretary Laura Hairrell have been

with the bank for more than 30 years. The two have seen many changes in banking since their first day.

The biggest change to come to Peoples State Bank happened in 1977. That is when the first computers were installed. The staff and customers both had to make some adjustments to make room for the new technology.

president. She started on the teller line when she was just 19 years old. Over the years she has held various positions in different departments throughout the bank. She became Peoples' first female president in 1999, as well as the first female bank president in Marshall County. Today she is also Chairman of the Board and Chief Executive Officer.

But having a title doesn't mean that's the only job you do in a hometown bank. "I still have a few of my older customers who asked if I would still handle making their deposits when I became president. I told them, 'Yes, I will.' And I still am," laughs Barnes.

"We've worked hard to build those relationships," she adds.

"This is a good community we live in. And I love the support. If we get to the point where I'm not able to do things like we've done today, I won't like it. I'll just go home," she says.

Josh Barnes agrees. Peoples has seen numerous changes in banking technology and phenomenal growth over the last 40 years. "But we don't ever want to outgrow our hometown roots. That's what makes this community so special," explains Josh Barnes. "Every day we come to work, we get to help our friends and neighbors." ▲



Grant's mayor, Samantha Lemley, stopped by Peoples State Bank of Commerce for the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration. She is shown above registering for a door prize with Josh Barnes, Assistant Vice-President.

"We hated them," laughs Brenda Barnes. "We were used to doing everything manually. We balanced every day manually, posting on ledger cards." That workload took a substantial number of employees to complete the task that is done today with a few simple clicks of a button.

Barnes hasn't always been the bank



# Reserve officers graduate training

Reserve police officers make a real difference in a small police force. These unpaid volunteers undergo weeks of training in a variety of areas including firearms and state and city law.

They spend their own money on supplies and volunteer their spare time to help make their city a better place for those who live there.

New Hope Police Department recently held graduation exercises for their first group of five reserve officers. The reserve program is one of many changes implemented by New Hope Police Chief Shannon Hoover.



New Hope Police Chief Shannon Hoover presents graduates with their diplomas. Shown above (Left to Right): Joshua Grimes, Richard Jones, Celeste Morris, Christopher Walls, Tanner Ward and Chief Shannon Hoover.

"These officers will patrol with our full-time police officers and help with special operations such as warrant sweeps," explains Chief Hoover. "They are an amazing example of self-sacrifice."

Hoover is hopeful that more people will volunteer to help serve their community in the future. "I would like to add more reserve officers in the future," says Chief Hoover.

If you are interested in volunteering as a reserve police officer, contact the New Hope Police Department for more information about the requirements. ▲

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# Howard Cross

## *NFL veteran shares keys to success with NHHS students*

"It's 9:57. He'll be here any minute," says Amy Largen, New Hope High School Librarian and head of the Spirit Committee. Her short quick steps that carry her through the lobby are barely audible above the anticipating chatter of the awaiting mass. Past and present faculty members, coaches, friends, and members of the media are sharing their favorite stories of the soon-to-appear alumnus.

"I played basketball against him, he was a real good basketball player too; I went to school with him, he finished a year before I did; I remember when they started recruiting him, he got offers from all over to play college football; he was always reading, he was such a good student, a straight-A student..." they say.

All at once, the sunlight filtering in through the front doors was partially blocked by a 6-foot-5-inch, 270-pound frame, wrapped in a huge smile.

"Hey Howard!" they call out as each acknowledge his presence. The fearless ones emerge from the crowd to shake hands heartily or wrap the giant in a warm hug. Howard Cross, a 13-year National Football League veteran has come home to share a message of success and the importance of character with the students.

Pop quiz. "Who is the highest paid

athlete today?" asks Cross to a gym full of students.

Answers start popping from the bleachers. "Tiger Woods," one student calls out.



Former New York Giants lineman Howard Cross, spoke to students at New Hope School recently. Cross' message encouraged students to be ambitious and follow their dreams while remembering the importance of a quality education.

"Yes. He is the highest paid single athlete, but I'm talking team sports," he clarifies. After several guesses from the crowd, Cross breaks in with the answer he was looking for.

"A-Rod," he says referring to Alex Rodriguez of the New York Yankees.

"This guy gets \$29 million a year for playing third-base.

"Now you can't even imagine how much money that is—to even try to spend that much in a year. But is that what you want when you grow up?

To be a famous celebrity athlete?

"Think about this: Who pays A-Rod?" Cross stops and smiles while the question penetrates his captivated audience. "I want to be the guy who can afford to pay A-Rod!"

The audience got the message. Smiles and head nods return to Cross in approval and realization of his point—don't limit your dreams based on the success of one individual. "Finish school, develop a plan, work at it, and never lose focus," he says.

Cross's message of success starts with the difference between character and image. "Image is what people think about you," he defines. "Too many kids today care far too much about their image instead of who they really are."

He also warns that the world is flat and that computer files never go away. He says teens using social networking sites like Myspace.com inappropriately are doing more damage than they can virtually imagine.

"You only have one name," he says.



It's given to you at birth...it's yours. You have to protect it like a delicate egg. It can be growing something really incredible, or you can shatter it."

Cross is no stranger to speaking to students of all ages. He has been holding attention spans since the days of Nancy Reagan's "Just Say No" campaign in the 1980's. As a high school All-State Lineman and a highly recruited college freshman, Cross was a favorite speaker for the program.

"I have always surrounded myself around people and players who don't do drugs," he says. "In high school, college and the pros—I know too many lives that have been destroyed by that stuff."

He was also a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. His advice to students today still includes the importance in believing in something greater than you.

"My great grandmother taught me that 'if God is for you, who can be against you?'" he says. Cross believes that a strong foundation is very important.

"You've got to have a strong foundation and a belief in something that you

can anchor yourself to that is so strong that nothing else can touch us. Something that is going to be consistent; an absolute thing. If you have that you have something you can grab and hold on to when something goes wrong.

"If you don't have anything, where do you turn to? What do you hold on to?"

Cross is using his influence to turn students' attention to the influences that affected him most—the educators and coaches from NHHS.

"Mrs. Duckett was my favorite teacher hands down," he remembers with a big grin. "Mrs. Brawley in English, and Mr. and Mrs. Smith, they taught science, biology, physics. Those teachers really took a high interest in you." On the football field he played tight end and linebacker for Coach Hillis and Coach Taylor.

After high school he played tight end at Alabama (1985-88), then was drafted by the New York Giants. He made the NFL All-Rookie team in 1989 and played in two Super Bowls, winning in 1991 against the Buffalo Bills at Super Bowl XXV. In 1995 he was the Giants' True Value Man of the Year.

In his NFL career, he caught 201 passes for 2,194 yards and 17 TDs. His list of injuries and surgeries sound like a page out of Grey's Anatomy. Yet, he only missed one game and three practices in this 13-year employment with the Giants.

Cross loves to share memories of playing with Lawrence Taylor, Phil Simms, Carl Banks and Mark Bavaro. "Those guys were bigger than life!" he says.

He refers to himself as a blue-collar lineman. "I went to work everyday and I did my job," he says proudly. "I remember what my dad told me. He said, 'Be a man first. Before anything else. Be a man. Then, you can wear any suit you want.'"

Today, Cross has finally traded suits. He is working in television for the YES Network and in commercial real estate in New Jersey. But he still makes time to speak to students and civic groups all over the U.S., just like he did this day back home in New Hope.

"In 12 years it will be 2020," Cross says in closing. "What's your plan?" ▲



Cross autographs retired jersey, shows students his Super Bowl ring, and embraces a former teacher.

# Rock Café Opens

The wait is over. The six-month renovation is complete and the Rock Café & Catering is now open for business.

"This is incredible, it's more than we could have imagined," says co-owner Wanda Ikard with a big smile. She is referring to the rush of new patrons on opening day that sent her and co-owner Teresa Keel into an excited frenzy.

"We had to close almost an hour early because we had run out of food," says Scott Adams, one of the waiters and a good friend of the owners. "But that's a good problem to have."

Visitors to this memorable New Hope landmark are sure to receive more than just a good meal. Families can come to share stories that feed off of the photos decorating the walls.

"Jimmie Ruth Richards from the New Hope Historical Association helped provide the prints, dates and information

about each photo," says Adams. The prints display legendary scenes of New Hope's past from the 1800's to the 1960's. Group shots, old farm equipment and antiques, as well as a few famous faces are expected to keep the stories alive.

The walls are not the only changes to the old restaurant. The extensive renovation brought all new kitchen equipment, dining room seating, and tables to the newly declared smoke-free, establishment.

The Rock Café & Catering also features a menu like no other in New Hope. "We have appetizers!" Adams reports with a grin. Fried dill pickles, cheese sticks, wings and more.

They have breakfast for the early birds. The lunch specials are made fresh daily (along with the desserts), and the dinner menu has something for everyone. ▲



A glimpse inside the Rock Café (above) displays the renovation efforts featuring old photos from the historical society. The restaurant's new name came from the familiar rock facing on the outside.



## PASTOR'S NOTES



BY LARRY BISHOP, PASTOR

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

NEW HOPE

It is Spring Time! I know this because the calendar marks the first day of spring as March 21. Other reasons are warmer weather, longer days (actually more daylight), and spring flowers. There is also the increased road traffic, especially the vehicles that are pulling boats. It seems that everyone is going fishing!

I am pretty sure that there will be several fish stories about "the big one that got away" as well as the ones that were caught. I remember seeing photographs of some very large fish that people caught at Keller's Store. Every fisherman has a fish story.

Have you heard the story about the time that a fish caught the man? This story can be found in the Old Testament book of Jonah.

People have debated over the years whether this could be true. Some say it's not possible because there is not a fish big enough to swallow a man. Others say that it was a whale. I think the real story is not that the fish swallowed the man, but the fact that the man was alive when the great fish cast him to the dry ground.

Jesus confirmed this story when he said, "As Jonah was three days and nights in the (belly of the great fish), so shall the Son of man be three days and nights in the heart of the earth." (Matthew 12:40) Jesus used a fish story to reveal the greatest story ever told. He is alive!

See you in church Sunday!



# Home Safety 101: Making Plans

The warnings are mind numbing. All too prevalent are the images that flood news and weather channels. Disaster strikes. Families are separated. Lives are changed forever.

Still, countless victims of emergencies are caught off guard. Think of spring as reminder to change out your emergency kit for warm weather and check smoke detector batteries and carbon monoxide detectors.

Plan a weekend to make a plan — an emergency plan. You will need a kit, a plan and some specific information.

## *Basic emergency supply kit*

When preparing for emergencies most think of the three basics: food, water and shelter. But do not take for granted the elements that are not listed.

**Air** – Clean air is vital. Include a dust mask in your emergency supply kit to filter contaminated air. Also have plastic sheeting and duct tape to help you shelter-in-place.

**Water** – Have a three-day supply of water stored in plastic containers. Include one gallon of water per family member.

**Food** – Store a three-day supply of non-perishable food that requires little or no preparation. If you select canned foods, be sure to include a non-electric can opener.

Have a NOAA Weather Radio or a battery-powered radio and extra batteries for both. Staying alert of changing weather conditions and local radio broadcasts will keep you informed and help you make good decisions.

**First Aid kit** – visit [www.redcross.org](http://www.redcross.org) for a detailed list of items. Don't forget the importance of sanitation during times of crisis. Include a few items to help prevent spreading disease.

A flashlight and batteries, whistle and other miscellaneous hand tools can make a difference. Visit [www.ready.org](http://www.ready.org) for more items to consider.



Also look at the specific age appropriate needs of your family. Have prescriptions and glasses on hand, or things like entertainment for children and games.

## *Make a plan*

It is important to plan before disaster strikes in case your family is not together. You need to decide how to contact each other and how to get back together.

Depending on the event and the magnitude of the devastation, it may be easier to make a long-distance call than to call across town. Select a friend or relative out-of-town as the person with whom to communicate among separated family members. Make sure each family member knows the phone number and has change for long distance calls.

Be familiar with the places your family members frequent. Know the emergency plans for work places, daycares and schools.

Spend time with your family discussing the dangers and warnings of weather related emergencies and man-made emergencies like fires or terrorist threats. Know the dangers and seasonal threats of your area.

Families should also have an evacuation plan that includes exit plans for fires, as well as where family members should plan to meet.

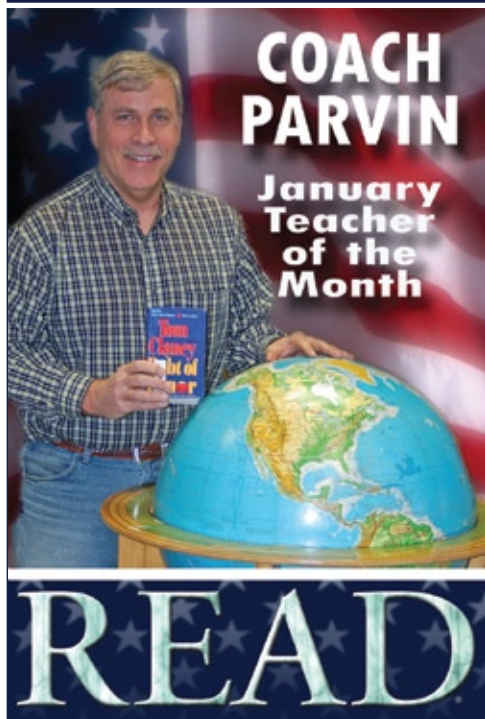
## *Collect your family members' information*

Consider including your family's personal information in your emergency kit. Have all of your medical history and identification numbers in a secure, weather and fire resistant container.

You can download an Emergency Family Plan from a disaster prevention and preparation Web site.

For more information and ideas about how to make better emergency plans visit [Ready.gov](http://Ready.gov), [Redcross.org](http://Redcross.org), [FEMA.org](http://FEMA.org) or [Prepare.org](http://Prepare.org). ▲

## New Hope High School Teacher of the Month



Coach Hal Parvin has been an educator for over 31 years and he's spent every one of them at New Hope High School. He received his teaching degree from Athens State University. He has two grown children, Amy Parvin Osborne and Ben Parvin.

Parvin has also served his country as a member of the Alabama National Guard for 30 years. Lieutenant Colonel Parvin currently serves as the S6 Communications Officer for the 31<sup>st</sup> Chemical Brigade in Tuscaloosa.

One of Coach Parvin's fondest memories is of taking Howard Cross, his younger brother Eric, Coach Solley, and Bernard Bell home after football practices in a 2-door Toyota Corolla hatchback. Each man weighed over 200 pounds. "Needless to say, I had to buy a new transmission after Howard's senior year," laughed Coach Parvin.

## COMMUNITY CALENDAR APRIL 2008

### April

Gunter Mountain DAR

Guidelines for contributing items for placement in the Pennsylvania Log Cabin Museum, on the campus of DAR High School, will be featured in the April issue. The Gunter Mountain DAR Chapter plans to reopen the Museum later this year.

### April 1-6

Kidtopia Workdays & Grand Opening

The community is urged to come together April 1-5 at the Grant Park to help construct the facility in a style reminiscent of an old-fashioned "barn raising." Everyone's help will be greatly appreciated. Help is needed to serve food, baby-sit, pound nails, paint and much more! To volunteer call Paula Wright at 728-4558.

If you would like to make a tax-deductible donation, please call Heather Saint at 683-0017. A "Kidtopia Celebration" and Grand Opening is planned for April 6th. The playground committee has raised over \$100,000 and currently needs about \$38,000 to complete the project. Tax-deductible donations can still be made by calling Heather Saint at 683-0017.

### April 5

Cruise-In

North Alabama Street Toys Cruise-In. Custom Cars, Street Rods, Trucks and Classic Cars welcome? (No boom boxes) 50/50 drawing, door prizes, awards. No entry fee—just lots of fun! First Saturday of each

month April through October 6 - 9 p.m. at Hard-ee's Restaurant in New Hope. Contact Billy Vann at 723-4631 or Donald Roy Paseur at 723-4500.

### April 10

County Shed Day

Madison County Commissioner Jerry Craig will host the annual appreciation lunch at the County Shed. Everyone is invited to come out for a free barbeque lunch as part of County Government Week.

### April 19

New Hope Spring Beauty Pageant

Entry deadline is April 5 (Beauty - \$40, Optionals are \$5 each) Open for girls 0 and up. Pageant is Saturday, April 19 at 6 p.m. at New Hope School. For more info contact Tina Anderton at 256-585-4727 or 723-5310.

### April 26

Special Singing

The Boys of Alabama will be singing at Galilee Baptist Church at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome!

Tell us about your community event and we will include it on our Community Calendar. If your group has an upcoming event, please send the event name, dates and times, a brief description and contact information to: NHTC, Attn: Communicator, PO Box 452, New Hope, AL 35760, or email [communicator@nehp.net](mailto:communicator@nehp.net). The information must be submitted 8 weeks in advance to meet printing deadlines.

## Grant Founder's Day Festival

Come out and join the fun at Grant Founder's Day. This year the festivities have been moved to May, so more people can enjoy the fun. There will be arts and crafts, displays, games, a car show, and plenty of fun for the children. Concessions will be available. There will also be plenty of musical entertainment including gospel, country and western, and bluegrass.

**When:** Friday, May 2 Kickoff at 5 p.m.

Saturday, May 3 starting at 7 a.m.

**Where:** Main Street at the Fire Station

**Sponsored by:** Grant Fire & Rescue

**Info:** Robert Patterson at 723-8866 or 505-1204, Robert Davis at 728-2698 or 558-0134, or City Hall at 728-2007



## "Clean Street Week"

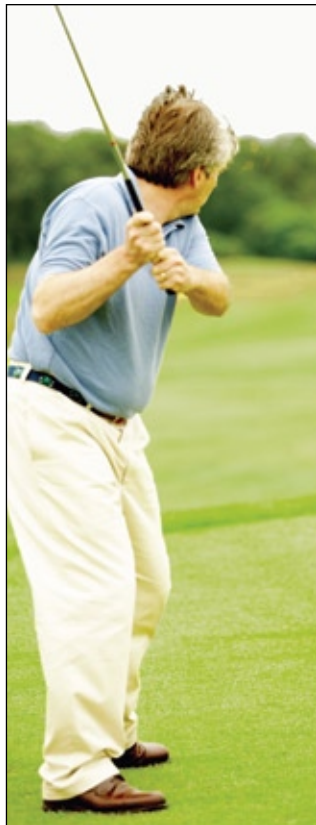
New Hope Lions Club and the New Hope City Council are sponsoring the 'Street Walkers' Clean Up Campaign for the city April 7 through 12.

During this week homeowners can place trash too large for garbage cans by the roadside to be picked up.

Volunteers will meet at the Piggly Wiggly on Saturday, April 12 at 8:00 a.m. to pick-up trash from the roadsides. April 19 has been set as a rain date.

Commissioner Jerry Craig will once again cook lunch for the volunteers. And business owners across town have donated items to be used for the street walk. Every volunteer will be entered in a drawing for door prizes.

Call Ava Cambron at 723-4695 to volunteer your group to help with the clean up effort. Thanks for helping keep the streets of New Hope clean!



## The Inaugural Indian Classic Golf Tournament

### DETAILS

Gunter's Landing — Guntersville, AL  
Saturday, May 10, 2008 • 1:00 p.m. Shotgun Start  
Pre-event/ registration begins at 12:00 p.m. Noon  
Food and drinks will be furnished following the tournament

### SPONSORS

Sponsor fees are \$100 per Hole and Multiple Hole Sponsorships are encouraged. Your company's logo, business name or family member name will be placed on a tee box. This is a 100% tax-deductible donation.

### CONTACTS

Sam Baker - 214-0002 work, 683-8604 cell  
Devin Whitaker - 755-6519 cell, 723-2195 home  
Mike Whitaker - 723-4040  
Brian Largen - 723-8687

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# HOMETOWN HERO



Cpl Jonathan Blake Cooper of the United States Marine Corps is shown with his M-16 just before his deployment to Iraq in February.



USMC Corporal Jonathan Blake Cooper recently deployed with the Guardian Company to Camp Fallujah in Iraq. There he will run reconnaissance operations.

He is the son of John and Rhonda Cooper of New Hope and the grandson of Riley and Jane Cooper.

Jonathan and his wife Laura reside in San Diego, California. They were married four months ago on New Year's Eve.

Jonathan graduated from NHHS in May, 2004 and joined the Marines in December of the same year. He spent two years working in communications in Okinawa, Japan, before joining the Special Forces.

Jonathan is the third generation to join the military in his family.

His father served in the National Guard for 20 years. His grandfather served in the Army during the Korean War.

"He's fulfilling a life-long dream," says his father, John. "Ever since he was six years-old he's had a poster of the Marines in his bedroom. This is all he's ever wanted to do."

John recalls his son calling to tell him he was going to Iraq. "I've got to go. This is what I'm supposed to do," Jonathan explained simply.

Friends and family can write Jonathan while he is serving our country in Iraq. Use the following address:

Cpl. Cooper, Jonathan, B.  
GUARDIAN Company, I MHG, I MEF  
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FPO AP 96426-2540

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**Jim Duncan 256-683-7228**



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Mrs. Burleson's Kindergarten class raised the most money during the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's annual Pennies for Patients campaign. The group celebrated with a pizza party. Students shown above are: Front Row (L to R) Tony Maples, Trinton Wilcox, Spencer Watson, Sydney Moore, Cody Rice, Brianna Roberson. 2nd Row (L to R) Andy Jarrell, Janna Parker, Elizabeth Burton, Mackena Maples, Emily Martin. 3rd Row (L to R) Shelby Sutton, Mrs. Burleson, Jesse Nielson, John Robert Kelly.

## Pennies for Patients

New Hope Elementary School recently held a fund raising campaign for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. Students in Kindergarten through 6th grade collected spare change to raise money to help fight blood cancers.

A total of \$2,412.37 was collected throughout the three week campaign. The money will be used by the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society for blood cancer research, education and patient services. Since the organization was founded in 1949, more than \$550 million has been used to help find a cure for blood cancers.

Mrs. Burleson's class collected the most money. The kindergartners raised \$366.67. The class received a pizza party for being the top fundraisers for the school.

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# NHHS Food Dynamics Class

The Food Dynamics Class at New Hope High School this year is a fun blend of personalities. The entire group has been consistently open-minded about trying foods that are new to them.

The class does labs twice a week and each lab is an adventure to watch! Some days the boys are very enthusiastic about learning to cook, and other days they prefer to stand back and watch the girls cooking. They are all very conscientious about safety, and have learned to follow recipe directions well.

The class is about to embark on a journey around the world. They will search the Internet for information about

the cultures, foods and climates of other countries. Through the process of creating a powerpoint presentation, they will learn how all of the other cultures on earth have influenced the variety of foods available to them here in the southeast United States. This is the third year Mrs. Ezell has done this project with students, and it is always fun to see their perspectives of other cultures.

"I have enjoyed working with this group of young people. I hope that spending some time in the kitchen here will inspire them to enjoy preparing food in their lives away from here and as they mature," said Mrs. Ezell.

## Chicken Casserole

3 boneless, skinless chicken breasts, boiled and chopped  
1 can cream of chicken soup  
4 Tbsp. sour cream  
1 package crackers, crushed  
1/2 cup butter or margarine, melted  
1 Tbsp. poppy seeds

Preheat oven to 350°. While chicken is boiling (15 minutes), mix soup and sour cream together in a medium bowl. Mix cooled, chopped chicken into soup mixture. Spray an 8" x 8" or 9" x 9" baking pan with Pam. Spread mixture in pan. Mix crackers, butter and poppy seeds together and spread over chicken mixture. Bake uncovered 15 to 20 minutes, until bubbly.

## Cheddar Biscuits

(similar to Red Lobster biscuits)  
2 cups Bisquick original baking mix  
2.3 cup milk  
1/2 cup cheddar cheese, shredded  
1/2 stick butter or margarine, melted  
1/4 tsp. garlic powder

Heat oven to 450°. Stir baking mix, milk and cheese until soft dough forms. Drop by spoonfuls onto ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 8 - 10 minutes until golden brown. Stir together

margarine and garlic powder, brush on top of hot biscuits. Makes 12 small biscuits or 8 large biscuits.

## Microwave Chili

1 lb. ground beef (or chicken or turkey)  
1 small green pepper, chopped  
1 medium onion, chopped  
2 cloves garlic, finely chopped  
1-16 oz. can stewed tomatoes, undrained  
1-16 oz. can kidney beans  
1-8 oz. can tomato sauce  
2 Tbsp. chili powder  
1/4 tsp. salt

Crumble meat into 3 quart microwavable bowl. Add bell pepper, onion and garlic. Cover loosely with plastic wrap and microwave on high for 6 to 9 minutes, breaking up meat chunks and stirring well after 4 minutes. When meat is no longer pink, remove from microwave and drain in colander. Stir in remaining ingredients. Cover tightly and microwave 12 to 18 minutes, stirring every 6 minutes, until boiling. Serves 4 adults or 2 teenagers!

## Taco Pie

1 can crescent rolls  
1-1/2 cups crushed tortilla chips

1 lb. ground beef  
1 pkg. taco seasoning mix  
1/4 cup chopped onion  
8 oz. can tomato sauce  
1 small block Colby-Jack cheese, shredded

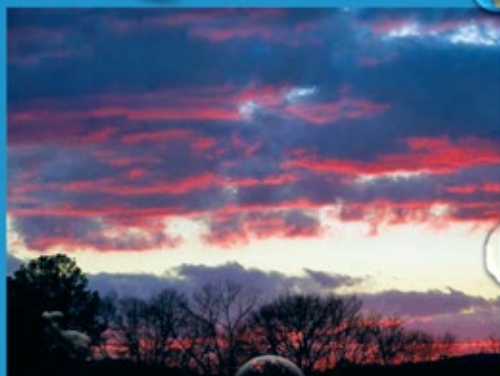
Preheat oven to 350°. Line a pie pan with crescent rolls. (Hint: They are triangles - put the point of the triangles in the center and they will form a circle. Press the dough together to fill in gaps.) Sprinkle crushed tortilla chips on top of crescent rolls. Set aside. Brown meat and onion, drain grease. Add tomato sauce and taco seasoning mix. Spread meat mixture over tortilla chips. Sprinkle with grated cheese. Bake for 25 minutes, or until crescent rolls are cooked in the center of the pan. Serve with sour cream.

## Cinnamon Sugar Biscuits

2 cans biscuits  
1 stick margarine  
1 cup sugar  
2 Tbsp. cinnamon

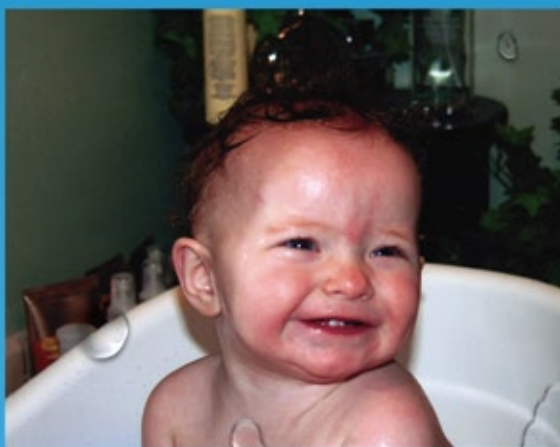
Mix cinnamon and sugar together well. Melt margarine. Dip biscuits in melted margarine and then cinnamon sugar mixture. Bake according to directions on biscuit can.





**Clouds and Sunset  
after the rain. Photo  
taken looking west at  
Old Gurley Pike by Lou  
Ann Poole.**

**Baby Elizabeth  
"Izzy" Medlen at 9  
months. She is the  
daughter of Kanita  
and Donnie Medlen.**



"Summer Fun" is the photo theme for June. Send pictures matching the photo theme to: NHTC • Attn: Communicator Photos • P.O. Box 452 • New Hope, Alabama 35760. You may prefer to e-mail your photo to [communicator@nehp.net](mailto: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) **Deadline for June is April 20th.**

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.

## *Inspiration Corner*

If you have ever been on a road trip and had an accident, or eaten at a restaurant and got sick, you're in good company. I would assume that, like myself, after these experiences you still take road trips and you still eat in restaurants. Imagine that.

Years ago I heard some people stopped going to a church because the parking lot wasn't paved. I also heard people stopped going to a church because a mural of the Creation Story showed Adam with a "belly button". How does such justification happen? Because pride is a powerful tool of satan. Don't get me wrong, a Christian church not teaching Christ needs purging, however, Proverbs 16 says, "pride comes before the fall." If every member of a church is a part of the Body of Christ, as I Corinthians states, and no part is any less important than another, only pride would cause a nose to cut itself off to spite the face.

One who keeps taking road trips after a wreck but stops going to church because of a flat might want to look deep into their relationship with Jesus, since He is the One who gives life to the Church. As we enter into the planting season, please join with me praying for every Christian to seek God's will in every church, and for the Great Commission to be realized in every heart. Searching souls need to know where they can find REAL Peace, Hope and Love. Show them in a church near you.



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

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