

A Publication of New Hope Telephone Cooperative

The

# Communicator

Vol. 8, No. 4

April 2009



**Information on  
Annual Meeting**

**Marshall Co. Hall  
of Fame Inductee  
Bobby Buford**

**Severe Weather  
Preparedness**



# 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.

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## The Communicator

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April 2009

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**New Hope Telephone Cooperative**  
P.O. Box 452  
New Hope, AL 35760  
[www.nehp.net](http://www.nehp.net)

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### *On the cover:*

This old barn is located just off Cathedral Cavern Highway in Grant.

## Manager's Comments

### Still working to make Internet better



When it comes to technology, your cooperative's work is never done. New Hope Telephone Cooperative is always looking for ways to improve

the service you receive from your home-owned telecommunications company. Because we are owned by the people we serve — that is you, our members — we believe we must never settle for service that is 'just okay.' We're after excellence and complete customer satisfaction.

Because of this, NHTC has been putting a good deal of time into improving our Internet service. After months of preparation, we converted in February to a Metro-E system. This connection goes from NHTC's core router out to the Internet backbone. Based on Ethernet standards, this approach represents an upgrade in technology that creates a more efficient means of handling Internet traffic. It also allows us to increase our bandwidth between here and the outside world quickly and efficiently.

In other words, Metro-E gives us the ability to switch to a larger pipe easily and economically, a pipe to carry Internet traffic into and out of our service area.

This technology has performed well the past few weeks, but we are still looking at issues we would like to improve upon. Rusty Bright, our Network Administrator, has been working to analyze the connections within the NHTC system — the network between our Internet customers and our DSLAM (Digital Subscriber Line Access Multiplexer) router. We have upgraded this router, which has increased our capacity from 45 mb to 155 mb, and will take us from a digital format to an optical format.

This all may sound like technical jargon, but what it translates into is this: we are working hard to improve the Internet speeds our customers are experiencing, so everyone logged onto our network will experience quality, reliable service every time they connect.

In other news, it looks like spring has finally arrived in North Alabama. Of course, that means our Annual Meeting is just around the corner. You'll find the dates elsewhere in this issue. Mark your calendars, because you don't want to miss this year's event — we have something special in store for you this year! ▲

### **Tom Wing**

*General Manager,  
New Hope Telephone Cooperative*

## Happy Easter

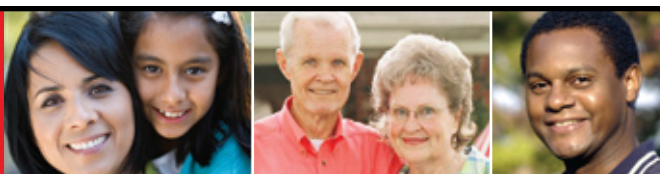
Easter is Sunday, April 12

The staff at NHTC wishes you and your family  
a safe and happy Easter holiday.

## DO YOU NEED HELP PAYING FOR TELEPHONE SERVICE?

***If you already participate in one of these programs, you may qualify for Lifeline or Link-up.***

- MEDICAID
- FOOD STAMPS
- SUPPLEMENTAL SECURITY INCOME (SSI)
- SECTION 8 FEDERAL PUBLIC HOUSING ASSISTANCE (FPHA)
- LOW INCOME HOME ENERGY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (LIHEAP)
- TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF)



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

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

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For a complete set of terms for the Lifeline and Link-Up programs, call or visit our NHTC office. Lifeline and Link-Up are part of the Federal Universal Service Fund program. The Federal Communications Commission introduced this program, and the Universal Service Administrative Company oversees it. The goal of Universal Service is to make sure consumers throughout the United States have essential telecommunications service.

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Mark your calendar!

# 2009 ANNUAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 19

Registration starts at 5:00 p.m.

Business Meeting at 7:30 p.m.

New Hope Middle School  
Lunchroom and Auditorium

Entertainment by Buckshot Band and  
DAR Show Choir

Vote for your Board of Directors

*You must bring a valid photo ID to vote.*

***NHTC will be making a BIG announcement at  
the 2009 Annual Meeting. Don't miss out!***

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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 upgrades Internet service and email



NHTC recently upgraded its DSL Internet system to provide subscribers with more bandwidth and greater reliability.

“We are dedicated to providing our members with the most dependable Internet connection possible,” says Rusty Bright, NHTC Network Administrator. “We have recently had some slowdowns with our DSL service that prompted us to upgrade our internal infrastructure allowing us to improve the overall quality of service.”

All DSL Internet subscribers will benefit from upgrades to the DSL Internet system.

New Hope Telephone Cooperative has also upgraded its email server to a new Web mail interface. The new

interface will provide members with additional options such as changing their own password instead of contacting NHTC to change it for them.

“This is something that our customers have been asking for that we were not able to provide with the older technology,” Bright says. “Before, customers had to call NHTC and request that we change their email passwords for them during business hours.

“This new interface allows them to manage their own passwords for their email accounts, providing greater convenience for subscribers,” Bright added.

To see the new Web mail interface, customers can visit [webmail.nehp.net](http://webmail.nehp.net) or visit the NHTC Web site at [nehp.net](http://nehp.net) and click on the link to NHTC Web mail.▲

A photograph of a large, rectangular cheese stick pizza with a thick crust, topped with melted cheese and herbs. In the background, there are some vegetables like tomatoes and lettuce. The text "Can you say Cheese Stick Pizza?" is written in a stylized, bubbly font in the upper left corner.

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The logo for G&G Pizza, featuring a cartoon chef character with a white hat and a red bow tie, holding a pizza. The text "G&G PIZZA" is written in a bold, red, stylized font.

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A photograph of a man and a woman driving in a dark-colored convertible car on a winding road. The man is in the driver's seat, and the woman is in the passenger seat. The background shows a lush green landscape with trees.

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## Returned checks policy

If a check or bank draft is returned to New Hope Telephone Cooperative's office as Non-Sufficient Funds, NHTC will charge your account \$20. This charge must be paid in addition to your phone bill within 10 days to maintain service. If NHTC receives two NSF notices within a six month period, we will only accept payments made with cash or money orders for a period of six months.

## Payment schedule

Please remember that payments must be in the NHTC office no later than the 20th of each month to avoid late fees or final notices. When payment is made at the bank, remember it could take a few days to reach our office. Payments must be received by the last day of the month to avoid an interruption in service.

## New Hope High School Teacher of the Month



New Hope High School recently selected Thomas Grey as teacher of the month for April.

"Teaching is a very rewarding profession," Grey says. "It means a lot to make a difference in a child's life."

Grey has been a Special Education teacher at New Hope High School for almost three years.

Born in New York and raised in West Virginia, Grey moved to the South when he took a job as a biologist with TVA.

After working with TVA, Grey worked in several other fields before finding his calling as an educator. He worked three years as

a Special Education teacher for the Huntsville City School

system before coming to New Hope.

"I have enjoyed teaching at New Hope," Grey says. "New Hope High School is a great school in a great community."

Grey earned a bachelors degree in Biology from Murray State University and a Masters Degree in Special Education from Alabama A&M.

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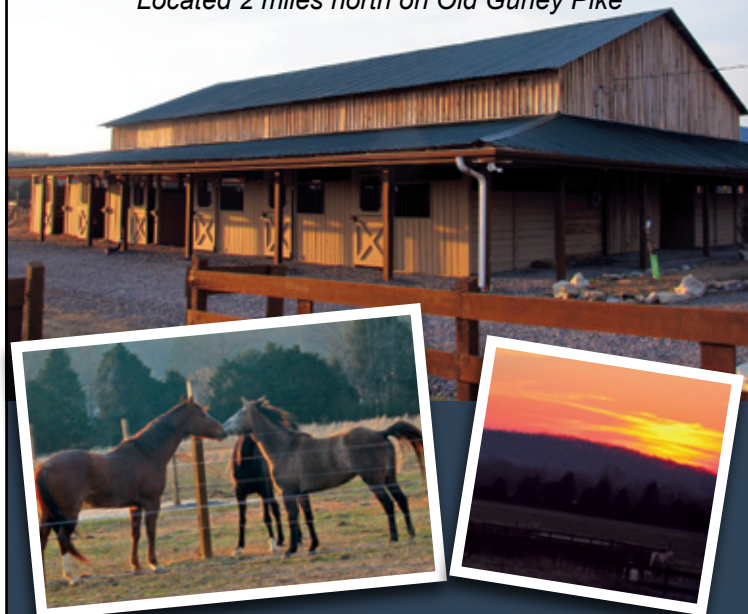
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# Buford inducted to Hall of Fame

Through the years North Alabama has seen many stand-out athletes and coaches. In a part of the state and nation where sport is often compared to religion, we have seen young men and women dominate high school, college and even professional sports as coaches and players.

Very few have done so in more than one sport on more than one level. Bobby Buford is one of those few.

Always an outstanding athlete, at NHHS Buford lettered in baseball and basketball, earning All County, All Area and All State honors in both sports.

During his senior year in 1972, after an impressive basketball season, Buford signed with Calhoun College where he planned to play basketball and baseball. However, when baseball season rolled around, he began getting looks from several four-year schools and even Major League Baseball.

In June of 1972 he was chosen by the Atlanta Braves in the 6th round of the MLB professional baseball draft as a pitcher who could throw, as he modestly says, “probably somewhere in the low 90’s.”

Buford initially turned the offer down, opting to accept a four-year scholarship to play baseball for legendary Hall of Fame Coach Ken Dugan at national baseball powerhouse, David Lipscomb University.

About a week before classes started at David Lipscomb, the Braves contacted Buford and made another offer. Buford accepted.

“It was very exciting to be drafted,” Buford says. “To be able to work out and dress with guys like Hank Aaron during spring training and play with athletes like Dale Murphy. It was huge to me then.

“It was also extremely competitive,” Buford added. “It was dog-eat-dog. There

“Playing baseball was an experience I will never forget,” Buford says. “I was able to travel and see things and get to know people from all walks of life. I learned things then that still benefit me today.”

After four years of professional baseball, Buford decided to hang up the spikes to pursue an education.

“My professional career just was not progressing as quickly as I would have liked and I had a yearning to play some more basketball,” Buford says. “I felt like I still had it in me to play competitively, so I decided to go back to school and give it a shot.”

Buford signed a basketball scholarship with Snead State Community College in 1977.

After a year at Snead where he received All Conference honors, Buford signed a basketball scholarship with four-year Athens State University. He finished out his college career at Athens State and was chosen as team MVP in 1979.

In 1979 Buford was hired by Kate Duncan Smith DAR High School as Junior Varsity basketball coach and Varsity baseball coach.

In four years as Junior Varsity basketball coach, Buford’s teams had a combined record of

95-9 and won three Marshall County Championships.

In 1984 Buford was promoted to Varsity basketball coach. In five years Buford’s teams won four Area Championships, made four trips to the state tournament, and two trips to the state championship finals. During his time at DAR, Buford also served two terms on the



**KING OF THE MOUND** - New Hope native Bobby Buford stands atop the pitcher’s mound on the baseball field of his alma mater NHHS.

might be 110 pitchers and only 60 positions. You had to perform to play.”

For the next four years, from 1973-1977, Buford played professional baseball for the Braves organization in Wytheville, Virginia (where he was team MVP), Greenwood, South Carolina; Lynchburg, Virginia; Clinton, Iowa and Sarasota, Florida.



Grant City Council.

In 1989 Buford left coaching to become principal of Douglas High School. He has held an administrative position with the Marshall County School System for 20 years and served in education for almost 30 years.

A member of the Madison County Athletic Hall of Fame since 1997, Buford was recently elected into the Marshall County Sports Hall of Fame and will be inducted May 30, 2009.

Buford has seen great success as an athlete and coach in baseball and basketball at the high school, collegiate and professional levels, but of all his achievements on and off the court and diamond, Buford is most proud of his family.

"My family is my greatest achievement," Buford says. "I am

prouder of them than anything I have ever done on a basketball court or baseball field."

Buford and his wife of 29 years, Louise, have three children: Dr. Julie

Buford of Red Bank,

N.J., Tyler Buford of Gainesville, Fla. and Mary Buford, of Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Julie attended the University of Alabama on a Presidential Scholarship and later attended Veterinary School at Auburn University. Dr. Buford is finished with school and completing a year-long internship at one of the most prestigious veterinary clinics in the Northeast.

Tyler Buford played baseball on scholarship at Berry College, where he graduated. He now has a successful career in insurance in Gainesville, Fla.

Buford's youngest daughter, Mary, is a junior in Nursing School at the University of Alabama in Tuscaloosa.▲



Buford played professional baseball for the Atlanta Braves organization from 1973-1977 with stops in Virginia, South Carolina, Iowa and Florida. He played college basketball at Snead State and Athens State University from 1977-1979.

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# NHHS graduate devoted to *making a difference*

Sometimes life is about second chances. That's what At Risk Administrator for Madison County Schools, Anna Watts, believes.

Watts, a graduate of New Hope High School, oversees PACE Academy Alternative School and the Madison County Alternative School Program.



Anna Watts considers working with students at PACE Academy Alternative School an opportunity to help make a real difference and leave a lasting positive impression.

She also handles Title IV (county funding for safe and drug free schools) and assists with the Alabama Student Assistants program that provides schools with tutors for at-risk students and helps prepare students for the High School Graduation Exam.

Watts began her teaching career close to home, at Owens Cross Roads where she taught for 14 years. After receiving her master's degree, Watts took a job at Riverton Middle School, where she was Assistant Principal for six years.

Despite a multitude of responsibilities and a very busy schedule, Watts, who has been in her current position for almost two years, says she enjoys her job in administration.

"This job has given me the opportunity to do something different and more challenging," Watts says. "This position has been a great experience for me."

Watts says much of the fulfillment she receives through her work comes from being able to make a difference in the lives of teens who are troubled or at a difficult place in their lives.

"Working with at-risk and disadvantaged teens gives those in our position the opportunity to make a substantial difference," Watts says. "We are about being positive here, not looking at what these young people did wrong from a punitive standpoint, but at what we can do to improve their lives."

"Our rules are very strict here," she added, "but we also want to show these students that everybody makes mistakes. We want to show them how to learn from these mistakes and move forward in a positive way."

PACE Academy Alternative School is attended by 6th to 12th grade students from all over Madison County.

The alternative school serves students who have violated the Madison County School Code of Conduct, gone through a hearing process with a county disciplinary committee and have been placed in the school as an alternative to expulsion.

Students at PACE are responsible for core academic requirements assigned from teachers from their own schools. In addition to core class work, students take part in physical education classes, service learning projects, social skills groups and guidance groups.

"The function of our school is not simply to punish students," Watts says.

"It is to make them better students and people, and to teach them to be productive, contributing members of society."

PACE Academy has worked on several service learning projects, and in October, 2008, was recognized in an article in *The Huntsville Times* for their hard work in the community.

Some of the projects PACE has been involved with have included partnering with a homeless shelter to provide aid to local homeless people and meeting with military veterans from the Floyd E. "Tut" Fann State Veterans Home to conduct interviews that will eventually be compiled into a book.

PACE students also worked on a literature project based on the book, *"Sadako and the Thousand Paper Cranes,"* by Eleanor Coerr. Students then constructed paper cranes like those in the story. Just before Thanksgiving PACE students visited patients at Children's Hospital where they read to sick children and presented the paper cranes as gifts.

Anna Watts graduated from New Hope High School in 1982. She was a member of the New Hope High School Marching Band and a standout on the New Hope girls softball team.

Watts says she enjoyed high school at New Hope and it was the teachers and staff at New Hope who encouraged her to pursue an education.

She attended Snead State Community College for two years on a softball scholarship before graduating from Auburn University with a bachelor's degree in Science in 1986. Watts also holds a master's degree in Elementary Education and a master's degree in School Administration from Alabama A&M. She is married to Chris Watts and lives in Big Cove. ▲





## PASTOR'S NOTES

BY LARRY BISHOP, PASTOR  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
NEW HOPE

There is a true story about a couple with a five-year-old daughter. The little girl fell out of a tree and dropped about ten feet to the ground. They rushed her to the hospital to make sure she was not injured. The doctors did X-rays and a CAT scan to see if there were any broken bones or any internal damage. The good news is that she wasn't damaged by the fall, but to the surprise of everyone, the test revealed a brain tumor.

The tumor was benign, but it was growing. The doctors did surgery as soon as they could, and it went very well. As a matter of fact, she asked for a cheeseburger the day of the surgery!

Her life may well have been saved because she fell out of a tree and had unplanned X-rays. That test revealed what would not have been found otherwise.

On a lighter note, the little girl's mom talked about how she could picture two guardian angels looking over the little girl when she was up in the tree. One of them says to the other one, "You push her." The other one replies, "No, I'm not going to push her. You push her."

God's X-ray is the Bible, "For the word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the dividing asunder of soul and spirit, and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

See you in church Sunday.

## Inspiration Corner

My Critical Thinking professor didn't think much of religion. Picking on the Bible one day he said, "The Bible says it rained forty days and forty nights. How many inches-per-hour did it rain to cover the earth if the highest peak is 'such-and-such'?" Of course the answer was astronomical. I raised my hand; "Sir, the Bible also says water gushed forth from beneath. Shouldn't that be taken into account?" "No! That is beside the point," he answered.

Many struggle with faith when "beside-the-point" reasoning is used to make a point. Discussing Mel Gibson's movie, *The Passion*, I've heard some say, "There's no way Jesus could survive that." Anyone recognize the critical-thinking problem? Just because we've never seen it doesn't mean it can't happen. Remember, we once believed the world was flat! So here

is my "beside-the-point": A man who knows God's love can endure much more than someone who doesn't. I have heard about people using super-human strength because of love. I have also been awestruck at what nature can do when set into motion. Proverbs tells us "every word of God is flawless.... do not add to it or He will make you a liar." So which would you think is better; to live as a child of God and be wrong, or live for one's self and be wrong? Easter is a great time to look for the answer, and in church is a great place to start. By the way, Jesus didn't survive....by worldly standard, but He does live. Joyous Easter to all.



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

## April 14

### ***We Care: Grief Recovery Support Group***

6:00 p.m. at the CARE Center

No matter what you face in life, you are not alone. Your friends at the CARE Center are here to help you find help and healing.

## April 27

### ***Byrd Cemetery Association Annual Meeting***

6:30 p.m.

At Owens Cross Roads Church of Christ.

## May 2

### ***Byrd Cemetery Annual Work Day***

7:00 a.m.

Contact byrdcemetery@gmail.com for more information.

## May 2

### ***Mothers Against Methamphetamine***

11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Mother's Day Luncheon & Flower

Show held at the Glover in downtown

Guntersville. For more information contact

Mary Holley at 256-498-6262.

## May 7

### ***County Shed Day***

11:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Commissioner Jerry Craig invites everyone to celebrate County Government Week at the County Shed in New Hope. Join friends in the New Hope community for great food, local entertainment, and a time of fun and fellowship.

## May 9

### ***Mother/Child Beauty Pageant***

6:00 p.m. at New Hope School

Pageant is open to girls & boys 0 and up.

For more information or entry form contact Tina Anderton at 655-4102.



# Arts and crafts festival weekend to celebrate “Fountain of Hope” veteran’s park in New Hope

New Hope’s Beautification Committee and Family First Homemakers are teaming up to improve downtown New Hope.

With the help of local businesses and individuals, the partnering groups are creating “Fountain of Hope,” a park in downtown New Hope honoring our nation’s veterans.

“This park will serve as a beautiful gathering place for the community to come together and enjoy downtown New Hope,” says Tammy Pritchett, one of the project’s organizers.

All-Star Pools is donating a fountain, which will be the focal point of the park. There will be a wall of remembrance that serves as a backdrop and seating area for the fountain with 8 x 8 inscribed spaces that can be purchased by, or in the honor or remembrance of a veteran for \$75.

Smaller brick pavers will be laid to provide a ground surface around the wall and fountain and can be purchased by, or in the honor or remembrance of a veteran for \$50.

The New Hope Lions Club has donated a town clock for the park. Four street lamps will light the park and there will be benches for seating and landscaping including trees, flowers and plants.

To raise money for the park and celebrate its construction, the Beautification Committee and Family

First Homemakers are hosting a weekend festival on Friday, June 19 and Saturday June 20.

The festivities will kick off on Friday with live music in the gazebo. After dark a movie will be shown on the side of a downtown building.

On Saturday, there will be an Arts and Crafts show and a BBQ Cook Off. Craft booths can be purchased for \$25 and cook off booths for \$50. Prizes will be awarded and proceeds from the event will help fund the park and future community improvement

projects.

“This park commemorates the sacrifices made by local veterans to give American citizens hope for a better future,” says Brandy Ikard, one of the project’s organizers. “This is a great way for us to show our appreciation to the brave men and women who have

served in our military.” For more information or to make a donation, contact Brandy Ikard at (256 ) 679-5448.▲



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# Are You *Stormready*?

November 24, 2001, is a day that many New Hope citizens will never forget. A tornado struck the New Hope area and left a path of downed trees and destroyed homes. Many residents were unprepared for such severe weather.

Now that tornado season has officially begun, ask yourself, “Do you know what to do when severe weather hits your area?”

## *Be Prepared*

When disaster strikes, you must be ready. Know the safe places in your home and have supplies stored there. Secure locations in homes include basements and small bathrooms or closets near the center of the house. If you are in a multi-story building, avoid areas underneath heavy furniture or appliances such as a refrigerator.

Keep a disaster kit in your safe area. Include items such as water, food that won’t spoil, a first aid kit, a weather radio, flashlights, and extra batteries. Also include blankets and any medications or other supplies you may need.

Talk with your family about your plans in case of severe weather and conduct drills regularly. Familiarity with a severe weather plan can minimize panic and confusion.

Consider taking advantage of the Storm Force WeatherCall, provided by WAAY News. For under \$7.00 a year, you can receive calls to three phone numbers and messages to three email accounts or cell phones when severe weather affects the area you specify. For more information, visit WAAYtv.com.

## *If a Storm Hits*

Tornadoes often touchdown without warning, so it is important know what to

do in any situation. What you should do in case of severe weather depends greatly on your location.

If you are inside a building during a tornado warning, move to a secure location. Stay away from all windows. Find shelter under a sturdy table and surround yourself with pillows or cushions. If time permits, protect children’s heads with bicycle helmets, put tags and collars on pets, put on sturdy shoes, and grab your keys and purse or wallet.

If you are in an automobile, quickly find a place to park and retreat to a nearby ditch. Lay flat and cover your head. Avoid seeking shelter under overpasses or near objects that are movable by the wind.

If you are in a trailer, leave immediately. Even trailers that are secured to the ground provide very little protection from the destructive winds of a tornado. Take cover in a sturdy building or follow the same procedure you would if you were in an automobile.

## *Know the Facts*

**Myth:** Areas near lakes, rivers, and mountains are safe from tornadoes.

**Fact:** No place is safe from tornadoes. Tornadoes that occur on water have even earned their own name: waterspouts.

**Myth:** Windows should be opened in case of a tornado to equalize pressure inside a home.

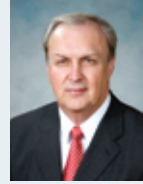
**Fact:** Opening your windows will make no difference during a tornado. The most important thing to do is find a secure location.

Arm yourself and your family this tornado season with the knowledge of proper procedure in case of severe weather. ▲

## Legislative Update

*By Rep. Butch Taylor*

*Alabama House of Representatives, Dist. 22*



On March 3rd, Speaker of the House Seth Hammett assigned me to a vacant seat on the Education Appropriations

Committee. This is one of the top committees in the Alabama House of Representatives, and I am honored to serve in this capacity.

The Education Appropriations Committee writes the education budget for the state. Our task is to determine how Alabama’s education dollars will be spent for K-12, two-year colleges, and universities. The good news during this economic downturn is that when we start crafting the education budget in April, we will know the details of the Federal stimulus package. Early projections indicate that the amount Alabama receives will leave us with only \$400 million to cut from education, instead of the \$1 billion figure we were fearing earlier in the year.

As I said, being appointed to this committee is a real honor for me. There were many Representatives who have been in Montgomery much longer than I have who wanted the assignment. I believe my background in education — as a teacher, coach and school board member — equips me to bring an informed perspective to the job. I will certainly do my best to represent well the people of District 22 and the entire state in my new position.

To reach me during the session, please call (334) 242-7219.▲





# THIS MONTH'S FEATURE: Breads

## RED LOBSTER'S CHEDDAR BISCUITS

2-1/2 cups Bisquick baking mix  
3/4 cup cold whole milk  
4 Tbs. cold butter (1/2 stick)  
1/4 tsp. garlic powder  
1 cup grated cheddar cheese

Brush on top:

2 Tbs. butter, melted  
1/4 tsp. dried parsley flakes  
1/2 tsp. garlic powder  
pinch of salt

Preheat oven to 400°. Combine Bisquick and butter in a large bowl using a fork until crumbly. Add cheese, milk and 1/4 tsp. garlic then mix until ingredients are combined, but don't over mix. Drop 1/4 cup portions on ungreased cookie sheet. Bake 15 to 17 minutes. While baking combine all ingredients for top. When removed from oven, brush melted butter mixture over biscuits, using it all up. Serve hot.

## MEXICAN CORNBREAD

1 cup cornmeal  
1 cup self-rising flour  
1/4 cup sugar  
1 cup cream style corn  
1/4 cup melted butter  
1 egg, beaten

1 med. yellow onion, finely chopped  
2 Tbs. olive oil  
1 clove garlic, minced  
1-3 jalapeno peppers, depending on your desire for heat, finely chopped  
1 (4 oz.) can of green chiles, minced and drained  
1-1/4 cups grated cheddar cheese  
3/4 cup skim milk

In a large bowl add cornmeal, flour and sugar, mix well. Saute onion in the olive oil for about 20 minutes, or until golden brown. Add the minced garlic and saute an additional 5 minutes being careful not to burn the garlic. Stir constantly. Remove onion mixture to a small bowl. Add a little more oil to the pan and saute the jalapeno for 8 - 10 minutes on medium high heat. Set aside. Add cream style corn, butter, milk, and egg to dry ingredients and mix just until moistened. Do not over mix. Stir in onion mixture, jalapeno, green chile mixture, and cheese until just mixed in. Pour the cornbread mixture into a large thoroughly greased iron skillet. Bake at 350° for 25 -30 minutes.

## APPLE BREAD

3 cups self-rising flour  
1-1/2 tsp. cinnamon  
3 eggs  
2 cups sugar  
1 cup oil  
1 Tbs. vanilla  
2 cups diced apples (peeled)  
1/2 cup chopped walnuts  
1 tsp. flour

Mix flour and cinnamon. Beat eggs and add sugar and oil. Add vanilla and dry ingredients. Stir in apples. Mix walnuts in a teaspoon of flour and add to batter. Pour into 2 greased loaf pans. Bake at 350° for 1 hour.

## MAYONNAISE BISCUITS

2 cups self-rising flour  
1 cup milk  
6 Tbsp. mayonnaise

Preheat oven to 400°. In a large bowl, stir together flour, milk, and mayonnaise until just blended. Drop by spoonfuls onto lightly greased baking sheets. Bake for 12 minutes, or until golden brown.

## CHOCOLATE CHEESECAKE MUFFINS

3 oz. cream cheese, softened  
2 Tbs. sugar  
1 cup self-rising flour  
1/2 cup sugar  
3 Tbs. cocoa powder  
1 egg, beaten  
3/4 cup milk  
1/3 cup oil

In a small bowl, beat cream cheese and 2 tablespoons of sugar until light and fluffy. Set aside. In a large bowl, stir together flour, 1/2 cup sugar and cocoa. In a small bowl combine egg, milk and oil. Add all at once to dry ingredients stirring just until moistened. Batter should be lumpy. Spoon about 2 tablespoons of batter into each greased muffin tray. Drop 1 teaspoon of cream cheese mixture on top and then more of the chocolate batter. Bake 375° for 20 minutes.

We need your recipes. Do you have a favorite recipe that you'd like to share? Perhaps it's your grandmother's chocolate pie or great grandmother's pound cake recipe. Each month *The Communicator* magazine will feature tried-and-true, kitchen tested recipes submitted by readers. If you'd like to share your recipe, send it to: NHTC • The Communicator • PO Box 452 • New Hope, Alabama 35760, or email your recipe to [communicator@nehp.net](mailto:communicator@nehp.net).



# Happy Easter



Foster's First Easter - Photo submitted by Robbie Birchfield.



Ryan Lyle decorating his first Easter eggs. Photo sent in by mom, Angie Lyle.



Sara Burleson (New Hope Kindergarten teacher) at the OCR Church of Christ Easter Egg hunt at New Hope City Park in 2008. The picture was sent in by Melissa Brown.



Lillie Paige Brown. Photo submitted by Melissa Brown.



Shawn Lyle decorating Easter eggs. Photo sent by mom, Angie Lyle.



"Father's Day" 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) The **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.

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