

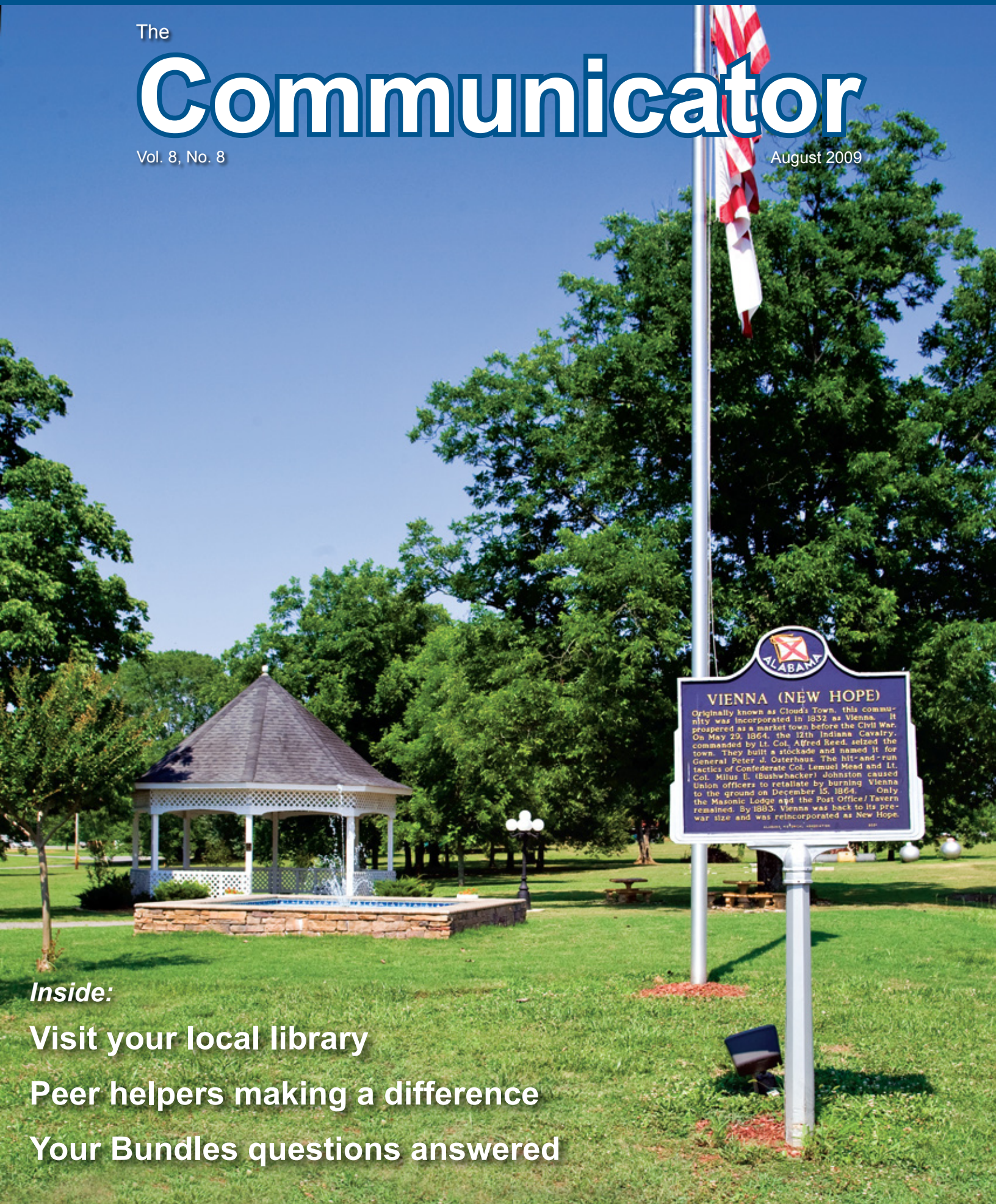
A Publication of New Hope Telephone Cooperative

The

Communicator

Vol. 8, No. 8

August 2009



Inside:

Visit your local library

Peer helpers making a difference

Your Bundles questions answered

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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On the cover:

Funds from the Hope Festival in June helped complete the "Fountain of Hope" in Veterans Park and other projects in New Hope. Read more on page 10.

Manager's Comments

Keeping the lines of communication open



It is very important to the NHTC staff that we keep our members happy. A big part of making sure that happens is listening to you when you have something to say. We value your input because that's what being part of a cooperative is all about — listening to each other and working together.

Our Bundles program is a great example of this. Many of our members conveyed an interest in Bundles over time, and we worked for more than a year to sort through the regulatory, financial and technical issues necessary to make it happen. You spoke, and we listened.

Our Bundles program has been wildly successful. And while we did create a very aggressive communications plan to get the word out, the primary reason for the success of Bundles is the phenomenal value these plans offer our members. Through our Bundles, members can enjoy Unlimited Nationwide Calling, Broadband Internet service and expanded cable television at one low price.

Because Bundles offer members such great savings, we knew they would be popular. But we never expected them to

take off so quickly. I checked the numbers recently, and since we rolled this out at our Annual Meeting in May, more than 700 members have subscribed to Bundles.

In fact, such a large number of people are signing up that we are scrambling to keep up with the demand. I am extremely proud of our staff for responding so well to such overwhelming interest from throughout our service area.

I also want to thank our members for being patient, as we have experienced some minor growing pains during the rollout phase.

For instance, recently a glitch in the computer software caused some members to be charged for long distance, despite their subscription to Unlimited Nationwide Calling through Bundles. That problem has been resolved, and all customers have been reimbursed for the error — another example of us working together to solve a problem.

Please continue to give us feedback, and we will continue our efforts to keep you informed. Everyone benefits when we keep the lines of communication open.▲

Tom Wing

General Manager,
New Hope Telephone Cooperative



Welcome Baby!

Shawn Smith, an outside lineman for NHTC, and his wife Karen are the proud parents of Aiden Ray Smith. Their new bundle of joy arrived on June 16 and weighed 7 lbs. 1 oz. at birth. He has a big brother named Austin.

Cooper, Hendrix receive promotions

Phillip Cooper was promoted to Service Order Coordinator in July, a position formerly held by Lou Ann Poole who will be retiring in November.

Cooper has been with NHTC for twenty years, and worked in the Service Department for the past 13 years.

"Lou Ann has taught me a lot over the years. I've enjoyed working with her, but I'm glad she's getting the opportunity to retire and do some things she loves," says Cooper.

Cooper is also known by



many as the Public Address Announcer at DAR Patriots Football and Basketball games.

He and his wife Sandy have one daughter, Tanya. They are members of Hebron Church of Christ.

Paula Hendrix was recently promoted to Dispatch Coordinator for the cooperative. Hendrix began her career with NHTC as a Customer Service Representative ten years ago and has been a Customer Service Specialist for the past three years.

"I've always enjoyed working here at NHTC. I'm excited about the new opportunity I've been given and I look forward to the challenge," says Hendrix.

As dispatch coordinator, Hendrix will serve as a liaison between customers and



the outside crew, answering trouble calls, preparing service tickets and dispatching the crews to repair service.

Hendrix and her husband Tim have two children, Ashley and Alex.

Community Events

Aug. 8, 15 & 22 **OCR Soccer Sign-ups**

Rec. Trailer by Town Hall
9 a.m. to 12 p.m. For children ages 4-12.

Aug. 14 **Back-to-School Dance**

New Hope Middle School
5th & 6th grade: 6 to 8 p.m.
7th & 8th grade: 8 to 10 p.m.

Aug. 29 **Grant Celebrate Recovery Anniversary**

Grant First Baptist Church Christian Life Center presenting Kevin Derryberry, Not Forgotten and Water's Edge in concert. For more information contact FBC, 256-728-2246.

Sept. 1 **PTO Open House**

New Hope Elementary School and New Hope Middle School at 6:30 p.m.

Community news:
The CARE Center Thrift Store has new hours: Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Pictures Needed
The city of Owens Cross Roads is looking for old and historic pictures of the city to use in the new town hall that is being built. To submit pictures, contact Barbara Webster at 725-4163.



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We're answering your **QUESTIONS** about **BUNDLES**



As you know, New Hope Telephone Cooperative now offers Bundles, new plans that help you save money by bundling Broadband Internet, Cable TV and Unlimited Nationwide Calling. Bundles have been extremely popular with our members. If you have not taken advantage of the money-saving program, here are answers to some questions you may have about Bundles.

Q. Are taxes included in the price for Bundles?

A. No. Because tax rates change frequently it is not possible to set the price with taxes included. Those fees are in addition to the monthly price set for each Bundle. That is standard practice for the telecommunications industry.

Q. Are local calls limited?

A. No. There is no limit to the number of local or toll-free calls you can make.

Q. I don't like the calling features I chose. Can I change them?

A. Yes. NHTC will allow you to make one change on your calling features free of charge. If you want to change again, there is a \$10 service charge.

Q. How long do I have to keep my Bundle?

A. As long as you want. There is no contract binding you to the Bundle plan. If you are not happy with your Bundle you can change back to your old plan at any time.

Q. Are these introductory prices?

A. No. While some companies do offer prices that seem too good to be true, only to raise rates a few months later, NHTC does not. We work hard to offer our members outstanding value every day. These are not introductory rates.

Q. Have there been any problems in the rollout of Bundles?

A. Yes. After the first billing cycle, it was discovered that long distance calls were still being charged to customers on Bundle plans. As soon as we discovered this glitch in our billing software, we quickly credited the fees back to each member's account and corrected the software error. There have been no other problems with Bundles.

Q. Do you plan to offer Bundles for business members?

A. We began the process of developing Bundles with a residential offering. We know our business members want access to the same money-saving opportunities, and we are now developing Bundles for our business members as well.



FIBER UPDATE

A look at NHTC's program to build a Fiber Optic network in our communities

The unmatched bandwidth of fiber

By investing in optical fiber technology, New Hope Telephone Cooperative is building the network of the future. That's important, because no one knows for certain what the bandwidth needs of tomorrow will be.

Compare the way you use the Internet today to five years ago. Browsing a few Web pages and checking email were the main activities not too long ago. Today, users watch streaming video, upload their own videos, purchase and download songs and movies, and connect and play video games with people across the country.

All these activities require bandwidth. And nothing matches the bandwidth of optical fiber. Think of the network as a water hose. The current network is a garden hose. The coming fiber network will be a fire hose!

Consider this: *one bundle of fiber cable not much thicker than a pencil could carry all of the world's communications traffic at any given time.*

With the bandwidth demands of homeowners and business owners changing so quickly, fiber will prepare NHTC to meet the needs of this region well into the future.

Inspiration Corner

One of the most rewarding aspects of ministry is helping people find answers to life's problems. By experience and in preacher's circles, I find we all hear the pride-side of someone's story. Someone having trouble with their marriage neglects to mention an affair, but can't understand why their spouse is impossible to live with?!

Someone else just can't bring themselves to attend worship because of all the "hypocrites" in church. The conversation: "What is a hypocrite?" Someone who claims one life but lives another. "You mean, like claiming to be a Christian but not going to church?" Yes. NO! I mean you don't have to go to church to be saved! "No, but if you are saved you go to church because that's the Christian way - according to my Bible!" (Don't try to figure out who. Those illustrations are neither from, nor around

here, but could step on toes due to the oneness of human nature †).

The point is, if you talk with your pastor about problems, please tell the whole story, even if it is embarrassing. God promises Truth will set you FREE (John 8:31), and pride must be removed, otherwise it prevents you from doing what's right and makes talking a waste of time.

Speaking of Preacher's Circles, I would like to welcome Brother Rick Finch, now serving the New Hope Church of Christ. I look forward to Rick joining in community ministry.

Teresa – May the next 25 years go by a little more slowly. ♥U



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

Legislative Update

By Rep. Butch Taylor

Alabama House of Representatives, Dist. 22



I'm sure you have heard about Gov. Bob Riley's recent decision to call a special session of the Alabama

Legislature to address the terrible financial mess down in Jefferson County.

I am not in support of calling a special session for a local matter such as this. Taxpayers statewide will be forced to pick up the tab for a session to address a problem that only exists in and effects the people of one county in our state. However, that is how our system works and something must be done.

Jefferson County is our state's most populous county and their economy must remain solvent. Alabama would be sending the wrong message to bond writers and lenders if we allow our largest county to default on such a large debt.

Jefferson County's finances are in such shambles that they will soon be unable to make payroll to hundreds of county employees. They have already placed one third of all county employees on forced unpaid leave.

We are hoping the legislators who represent Jefferson County can come together to propose a solution that will, at the very least, allow the county government to continue operating.

With this taken care of, hopefully we can shift our focus to the many more important issues that affect everyone in our state as we look toward the 2010 regular session. ▲

Hope Festival raises funds to revitalize downtown New Hope

On Friday, June 19 and Saturday, June 20, 2009, the New Hope Beautification Committee and Family First Homemakers joined together to host New Hope's first Hope Festival.

The arts and crafts festival and barbecue cook-off raised considerable funds to help finish construction of "Fountain of Hope" Veterans Park in downtown New Hope.

"We were very pleased with the turn-out for New Hope's first Hope Festival," says Tammy Pritchett, one of the organizers for the event. "We were able to raise a nice sum of money to continue our ongoing efforts to revitalize downtown New Hope."

The festivities kicked off on Friday at Billy Jones Gazebo in the park with live music from local band Crossfire Classics. After dark, the movie "Fireproof" was shown on the side of the Elizabeth Carpenter Public Library building.

Fifteen teams competed in the

barbecue cook-off and nine local artists displayed arts and crafts.

A dedication of "Fountain of Hope" park is scheduled during Founder's Day in October.



Above - A fountain, donated by All-Star Pools, is the centerpiece for Fountain of Hope Park
Right - A town clock, donated by the Lions Club, was erected outside of New Hope City Hall downtown.

Already in place at the park is Billy Jones Gazebo (in honor of former New Hope Mayor Billy Jones), a fountain donated by All-Star Pools, and a town clock donated by the New Hope Lions Club.

The proceeds from the Hope Festival will fund future improvements, such as a wall of remembrance. This wall will serve as a backdrop and seating area for

the fountain, with 8" x 8" inscribed spaces that can be purchased by, or in 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.

Four street lamps will light the park. There will be benches for seating, along with landscaping such as trees, flowers and plants.

The winners of

the first annual Hope Festival cook-off were:

Rib contest winners: 1st Place, Big Foot BBQ; 2nd Place, Caribbean Smoke; and 3rd Place, Bama Jammin' BBQ.

Chicken contest winners: 1st Place, Big Ed's Smokin' Hot Butts; 2nd Place, Spices Smoke House; 3rd Place All Smoked Up. The Grand Champion was Three Men and a Grill, and the Reserve Grand Champion was Bama Jammin' BBQ.▲

NHHS Peer Helper group sets example for fellow students

New Hope High School is taking a new approach to helping students who are struggling academically.

Two years ago, NHHS Graduation Coach Claude Lang began the Peer Helper program. The program uses student leaders to serve as role models, mentors and academic tutors for other students.

"This is a wonderful program," Lang says. "Often students can better relate to their peers than their teachers and parents. We have seen some great results from the efforts of these student leaders."

NHHS Peer Helpers are required to maintain a 75 overall grade average and act as role models in their school and community. They also agree to work with elementary, middle, and high school students as mentors and tutors.

The group signs a contract pledging to abstain from drugs, alcohol and tobacco and maintain good moral character and integrity while taking part in the program.

Peer Helpers are heavily involved with Red Ribbon Week, an annual anti-drug campaign. Students take part in skits, plays, musicals, games and other activities designed to promote drug and alcohol awareness and dissuade their use.

The group also performs various community services including volunteering to help with the Special Olympics each year.

Lang says he plans to have the group act as ambassadors for the school, representing NHHS at special functions and events.

"This program helps give our students, our school and our community a better name," Peer Helper Danielle Moon says. "It gives people hope and makes them want to have something good in their lives."

Last year 45 students at NHHS were Peer Helpers. They tutored more than 100 students helping to keep 40-50 of those students from failing.

Fifty-five students have committed to the group for the 2009-2010 school year.

Lang and fellow group coordinator, NHHS librarian Amy Largen, are pleased with the amount of participation and dedication from the student body.

"These kids are Peer Helpers because they want to be," Largen says. "We do not recruit them. They have to want it. They have to come to us and say, 'We want this. We want to make a difference.'"

Peer Helper Hannah Kirsopp says she enjoys being a part of the group. "It feels

good to help other people," Kirsopp says. "And hopefully we can have a positive influence on other students by setting a good example. They know we are not out doing bad things and that they can come to us for help." ▲



MAKING A DIFFERENCE - Juniors and Seniors lead the way for NHHS Peer Mentors. Top row (L to R): Danielle Moon, Morgan Pence, Jonathon Steinman, Bottom row : Kristen Duckett, Hannah Kirsopp, Justina Craft.

Public libraries have much to offer local communities

A public library can be a magical place. It can serve as a portal to the wonders of this world—wonders that many in small communities would be unable to experience without the library's existence.

Public libraries can be the lifeline of small communities like New Hope and Grant, bringing people together and enriching the lives of all whom they serve.

Part of the Huntsville-Madison County Public Library system, the **Elizabeth Carpenter Public Library** in New Hope is a prime example of how a public library can impact a community.

At one time, the Huntsville Library sent a "Book Mobile" to New Hope to give residents the opportunity to check out books from the library without traveling all the way to Huntsville.

Due to a lack of selection, a group of New Hope residents organized in October 1987 to start their own library. Led by the efforts of Prescilla Scott, Louise Matthews and Mayme Claire Maples, the group established a library and, less than a year later in September 1988, became operational. The New Hope library was named after long time New Hope High School educator and



Grant Public Library Librarian Karen Kirkland and Chairman of the Grant Public Library Board Lillis Irwin have worked closely together for the past 11 years. Irwin was instrumental in organizing efforts to establish Grant's library in 1991.

school librarian Elizabeth Carpenter.

Last November Katie Kahill was hired as Library Assistant at the Elizabeth Carpenter Public Library. Originally brought in to increase teen involvement in the library, Kahill was recently promoted to Branch Manager to run the library.

"I love my job," Kahill says. "I enjoy working with everyone in the community, but especially the kids. It is so important to get them in here and get them interested in learning at an early age."

Kahill has stepped in at a busy time. The Elizabeth Carpenter Library wrapped

up its Summer Reading Program on July 21. Also this summer, the Friday Night Live program offered various fun activities for youth on Friday nights. Around 50 teens have been involved with the program.

The library also held a movie night for teens every other Tuesday night and a movie afternoon for children every other Wednesday.

Kahill is currently gearing up for fall programs at the library. Tentatively scheduled will be a homework night that will allow students to come together and work on individual or school projects.

The library will also host a school age story time every first and third Saturday of the month beginning in September. Also scheduled is an adult Inspirational Reading group. Possible fall activities include adult computer classes and knitting classes.

Elizabeth Carpenter Public Library is open: Mon. 2 p.m. - 8 p.m., Tues. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Thurs. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m., Fri. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., Sat 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

The **Grant Public Library** is also involved in its community and surrounding communities. Numbered at 1,600, the library's patron cards outnumber the population of the city almost three to one.

Grant Public Library reaches out to the entire Gunter's Mountain and beyond.

"This library serves people from all over this region," Librarian Karen Kirkland says. "It benefits not only this community, but the entire region."

A part of the Marshall County Cooperative Library system, Grant Public Library was founded in 1991. The library did not come easily however. It took three years of hard work led by Chairman of the Grant Library Board Lillis Irwin.

Grant's library recently wrapped up a successful Summer Reading program. And every first and third Thursday at 10:30 a.m., library volunteer Sally Jones hosts Toddler Time, a reading and games program for toddlers.

Computers are available to the public and Irwin says they have been put to

good use in this economic downturn, allowing visitors to fill out job applications, resumes and government assistance forms.

"This library is an asset to this community," Irwin says. "It's very important for a child, or anyone in the community, to know where a library is, especially in these economic times when people can't afford to go out and buy books. ."

Grant's library will hold its Eighth annual quilt show on September 23 from 9 a.m. until 11 a.m. In October the library also plans to hold a round table discussion focusing on the Civil War as it pertains to the Grant area. Local experts will be in attendance.

Grant Public Library is open: Mon. 11 a.m. - 7 p.m., Tues. and Thurs. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., Fri. 12 p.m. - 6 p.m., Sat 9 a.m. - 3 p.m. ▲



Katie Kahill was recently promoted to Branch Manager of the Elizabeth Carpenter Public Library.



Gary Doran, more than 20 years of experience

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Partnership for a Drug-Free Community hosts meth forum

The Partnership for a Drug-Free Community is hosting an informational neighborhood meth forum on Tuesday, August 25, 2009 from 7 p.m. until 8:30 p.m. at Chestnut Grove United Methodist Church in Gurley.

The organizers of the forum hope to educate parents and youth about meth and provide additional resources and informational materials.



Executive Director Deborah Soule, left, and Associate Director Candice Dunaway.

The forum will be held for the residents of Big Cove, Gurley, Owens Cross Roads, New Hope and Berkley.

Forum panelists will include: Madison County Sheriff Blake Dorning; Sgt. Dewayne McCarver, Commander of Madison-Morgan County Strategic Counter Drug Team; Madison County Department of Human Resources representative Kay Miller and Gina Koger, Madison County Mental Health Center representative.

Because meth can be made easily from common household items, clandestine labs are very commonly found in unsuspecting rural areas like those found in parts of Madison County. Partnership for a Drug-Free Community hopes to reach out to the people in this region.

“We are excited to be able to present this forum,” says Partnership for a Drug-Free Community Executive Director Deborah Soule. “This program will be beneficial to all who attend. It is important that we make ourselves knowledgeable about this devastating drug that so greatly affects the rural areas of this county.”

Methamphetamine, or meth, is the fastest growing drug threat and the most prevalent synthetic drug manufactured in the United States.

Meth was listed by the U.S. Drug

Enforcement Agency in 2008 as the number one drug threat in Alabama. It has been a threat in rural parts of Alabama for far longer.

The drug wreaks havoc on the physical and psychological state of its users. It can cause episodes of extremely violent behavior, paranoia, anxiety, schizophrenic-like symptoms, confusion and insomnia.

Long-term meth use often results in severe dental problems, chronic sleep disorder, heart problems, malnutrition, uncontrollable repetitive physical movement and irreversible brain damage. Addiction often results in long-term depression and psychotic behaviors as well.

The mission of Partnership for a Drug-Free Community is to reduce the illegal use or abuse of drugs including alcohol, inhalants, methamphetamine, marijuana and tobacco among youth throughout the Huntsville/Madison County community at large. This mission is accomplished through strengthened anti-drug coalition efforts using research-based, scientific and environmental strategies.

Seating is limited. If interested in attending this free forum, call 256-539-7386 or visit www.partnershipforadrug-freecommunity.net to reserve a seat. ▲



NEW HOPE
CHILDREN'S CLINIC

NOW OPEN. New Hope Children's Clinic, located on the campus of New Hope School, provides pediatric medical care at little to no cost. Open Monday through Thursday from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. For more information, call 723-HOPE or visit newhopechildrensclinic.org.

“Myths, Legends, and Crazy Rumors...”

I was watching 20/20 one day. John Stossel had an interesting segment on myths that just aren't true at all. Here they are – it's very eye opening.

The first myth is polluted air and chemicals are killing us, but cancer is actually on the decline. We're running out of places for our garbage, but due to recycling we really are not. The most shocking was the myth that the rich don't pay their fair share of taxes. According to the IRS the top 1% of Americans pay 1/3 of all income taxes. I'm not going to cover the boring ones, such as the myth that money buys happiness. I think deep down we all already knew that wasn't true – but it sure doesn't hurt any.

Now I want to cover some myths concerning Chiropractic. The first myth is that if you see a Chiropractor you will likely be paralyzed. My malpractice premiums are \$858 per year and recently were only about \$600. How many MDs can say that? “Popping” your knuckles or neck will cause arthritis. Actually, keeping motion in joints helps to reduce the risk, and this was proven by a study at UCLA. The last myth is MD's do not want their patients to be adjusted. A lot of MD's have started referring patients to Chiropractors, and there is a branch of the medical field called Osteopathy. These are MDs who are trained in spinal manipulation similar to Chiropractic.

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)

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 August 28, 2009, 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.

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 16 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.

Gunter Mountain DAR chapter marks grave of local Revolutionary War Veteran

On Saturday, June 27, 2009 at 10 a.m., members of the Gunter Mountain Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution (GMDAR) gathered at the Whitaker Cemetery near New Hope to pay tribute and mark the grave of Revolutionary War Veteran John Whitaker.

Whitaker, who lived in the New Hope area, is believed to have died around 1835 and was the first person to be buried in Whitaker Cemetery.

The crowd of around 150 was welcomed by GMDAR Regent Libby Wheatley Bevel. Rex Provence, a descendent of John Whitaker, gave the invocation.

The Tennessee Valley Chapter,

Sons of the American Revolution led the flag procession. Ryan Hicks, a descendent of Whitaker and member of Gunter Mountain Children of the American Revolution, lead the Pledge of Allegiance to the United States Flag and the Pledge of Allegiance to the Alabama flag.

The marker was unveiled by Susie Keller, Chairman of the Whitaker Grave Marking Committee, and Lucy Whitaker, descendent of John Whitaker. The benediction was given by Chaplain Lillian Botos. Whitaker descendent Steadman McPeters ended the ceremony with "Taps."



John Whitaker, a Revolutionary War Veteran was honored during a ceremony on June 27 at Whitaker Cemetery. He was the first person buried in the historic cemetery.



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PASTOR'S NOTES

BY LARRY BISHOP, PASTOR
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
NEW HOPE

Summer is coming to an end and fall is right around the corner. It's time to get back into the classroom! "School days, school days, dear ole golden rule days, reading, writing, and arithmetic."

The quest for knowledge can be traced back to our spiritual fathers. Moses was given the Truth of God in written form so he could pass it on to the next generation that they might know the right path to follow.

The prophet Samuel established a "school of the prophets" so he could teach the people of his day.

Jesus frequently rebuked his listeners and then would use parables with

underlying principles for how to live. Paul's often-used phrase "I would not have you to be ignorant" expresses the conviction of his heart.

In the founding of our nation the Pilgrims arrived in Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1620. The first public school was established in 1620 and the first school of higher learning, Harvard University, was established in 1635. Schools were established as a means of educating and training godly people who could proclaim and disseminate with intelligence the message of God.

A biblical example of four young people with intelligence of the message of God can be found in the book of Daniel. Daniel accredited his intelligence and wisdom to God as he said, "Blessed be the name of God for ever and ever: for wisdom and might are his:" (Daniel

2:20). Daniel's knowledge and conviction allowed him to escape the hungry lions and his three friends, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, miraculously survived the fiery furnace.

Just one example of how God used human intelligence for His purpose. Want to know more?

See you in church Sunday.

Service Times

Sunday School	9:45am
Morning Worship	11:00am
Evening Worship	6:00pm
Wed. Prayer Mtg.	6:45pm
Wed. Youth Mtg.	6:45pm
Wed. TeamKID	6:30pm

There's Exciting News for First Time Homebuyers

If you've been waiting for the perfect time to purchase your first home, it's here! With the provisions of the First Time Homebuyers Tax Credit you could be on your way to purchasing the home of your dreams. The qualifications are simple:

- You must be a first time home buyer. This is defined as someone who has not owned a principle residence during the three-year period prior to the purchase.
- The home must be purchased between January 1, 2009 and December 1, 2009.
- The credit is equal to 10% of the purchase price of the home, up to a maximum of \$8,000.
- Single taxpayers with an income up to \$75,000 and married couples with a combined income up to \$150,000 qualify for the full tax credit.
- The credit does not have to be repaid.

With interest rates near record lows and so many great homes on the market, it's a great time to start thinking about homeownership. Call us today and let's get things started.

Information obtained from American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009



Josh Barnes, Vice President and Brenda Barnes, President and CEO

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From the Community

BUTTERSCOTCH BARS

(Karen Cooper)

1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
5 Tbsp. butter, melted
1 tsp. vanilla
1 large egg, lightly beaten
2 cups all-purpose flour
2-1/2 cups quick-cooking oats
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. baking soda
3/4 cup sweetened condensed milk
8 oz. of butterscotch morsels
1/8 tsp. salt
1/2 cup finely chopped walnuts, toasted

Preheat oven to 350°. Combine sugar and butter in large bowl. Stir in vanilla and egg. Combine flour, oats, 1/2 tsp. salt and baking soda in a bowl. Add oat mixture to sugar mixture, stir with a fork until crumbly.

Press 3 cups oat mixture into the bottom of greased 9" x 13" baking pan. Set aside. In microwave bowl, pour condensed milk, butterscotch morsels and 1/8 tsp salt. Microwave at high for one minute or until butterscotch morsels are melted, stirring every 20 seconds. Stir in walnuts. Pour butterscotch mixture over oat mixture. Spread evenly

over crust. Sprinkle evenly with remaining oat mixture. Bake for 30 minutes or until golden brown. Cool completely. Cut into 36 bars.

SWIRL BARS

(Karen Cooper)

1/2 cup butter, softened
1/2 cup granulated sugar
1/2 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
1/2 cup creamy peanut butter
1/2 tsp. vanilla
1 cup all-purpose flour
1 cup quick-cooking oats
1/4 tsp. salt
1 cup semisweet chocolate chips

Icing

1 cup confectioner's sugar
1/4 cup peanut butter
3 Tbsp. milk

Preheat oven to 350°. In large bowl, beat butter, sugars, peanut butter and vanilla until smooth. In a second bowl, whisk together flour, oats and salt. On low speed, beat flour mixture into butter mixture until just combined. Press mixture firmly on bottom of greased 9" x 13" baking pan. Evenly sprinkle chocolate chips over top. Bake for 20 minutes. Remove from oven.

Make Icing. In a medium size bowl, blend confectioner's sugar, peanut butter and milk until smooth. Pour icing over uncut bars while still warm and swirl chips with icing. Cool completely. Cut into 16 bars

CARAMEL BARS

(Karen Cooper)

2 cups unsifted flour
3/4 cup firmly packed light brown sugar

1 egg, beaten
3/4 cup cold butter
1 cup chopped walnuts or pecans
24 caramel pieces, unwrapped
14 oz. can sweetened condensed milk

Preheat oven to 350°. In large bowl, combine flour, sugar, and egg; cut in 1/2 cup of butter until crumbly. Stir in walnuts or pecans, reserving 2 cups crumb mixture. Press remainder firmly on bottom of greased 9" x 13" baking pan. Bake 15 minutes. Meanwhile, in heavy saucepan, over low heat, melt caramel with sweetened condensed milk and remaining 1/4 cup butter. Pour over prepared crust. Top with reserved crumb mixture. Bake 20 minutes or until bubbly. Cool. Cut into bars. Store loosely covered at room temperature.

STRAWBERRY LAYER CAKE

(Nikki Dudley)

1 box strawberry cake mix

Prepare strawberry cake mix batter according to package directions. Spray 2 round cake pans. Half the mixture into cake pans and bake as directed on box.

Icing

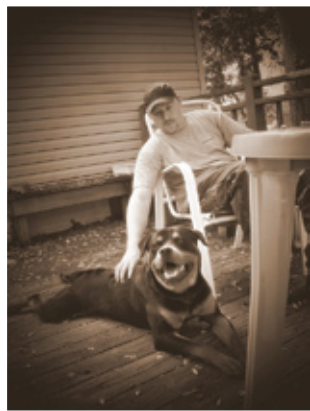
1 can cream cheese icing
1 cup confectioner's sugar
1/2 to 3/4 cup frozen strawberries, thawed

Combine all ingredients and mix together well. Ice first layer, add second layer and ice cake completely. Serve cold.

Furry Friends



You never know what "furry friend" Hayden Hill will find at Grannah & Papa's farm. Sent by Barbie & Tommy Davis.



Shane Meadows with Leroy. Photo by Sonya Meadows.



Gracie Sine. The photo was taken by her mommy, Jennifer Sine.



Katelyn Harris & Abraham. Photo submitted by Rhonda Harris.



Major Walker with "Buffy and Jokes".

Photo taken and submitted by Kristin Walker.



Kylie and her dog, Daisy. Her parents are Scott & Wendy Martin.



Hannah Hill at Grannah & Papa's farm. Photo submitted by Barbie & Tommy Davis.

"Halloween" is the photo theme for October. 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. 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 October is August 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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