

A Publication of New Hope Telephone Cooperative

The

Communicator

Vol. 7, No. 2

February 2008

New Chief in Town



Plus:

NHHS fighting drop out rate

DAR announces essay winners

New burn ordinance in New Hope

Advertisers • Recipes • Community Photos

Manager's Comments

It seems like every time we prepare a new issue of *The Communicator* lately, there is some sort of news in its pages about our cable system.

We've been talking about cable a lot lately because, frankly, we've been doing a lot to improve our cable. If it hasn't become clear by now, let me state it plainly — New Hope Telephone Cooperative has set its sites on taking your cable television service to a whole new level.

New packages. More channels. High Definition options. I'm proud to say that your cooperative has worked hard to bring positive changes to your cable service.

And this month, we're at it again. I'm proud to announce that we have just added The Sportsman Channel to our growing lineup. I believe it will become one of the most popular channels we offer.

The tag line for The Sportsman Channel says, "All Hunting. All Fishing. All The Time." That pretty much sums it up. It caters to those of us who love to hunt and/or love to fish. Period.

You can learn more about the channel online at www.thesportsmanchannel.com. According to their Web site: "The Sportsman Channel is for the over 47 million sportsmen in the United States who want a television channel dedicated to their lifestyle. The strict programming guidelines don't allow for infomercials, motor sports, bull riding, hiking, biking or any other variety programming; just tried and true hunting and fishing."

Look for The Sportsman Channel on Channel 66.

If you like more variety in your sports programming, we have good news for you, too. We are working on

adding ESPN HD to our lineup. It's the outstanding sports coverage you've come to expect from ESPN, in High Definition. You will be amazed at how much better your favorite sport looks in HD!

When it comes online, you'll find ESPN HD on Channel 79. All you need is a high-definition television with a built-in QAM tuner. Just remember, if you have a set-top box to receive our premium channels, you'll have to turn it off to receive ESPN HD — the same way you view all the Huntsville stations we recently began providing in HD.

You can read more about these additions in next month's issue of *The Communicator*. And keep reading to learn about more exciting changes taking place with your cable service in the months ahead.

Why are we so committed to improving the cable service we provide? The answer is in our name. New Hope Telephone Cooperative. We are a local business staffed by local people serving local people. And the people we are serving are the owners of the company. After all, the heart of a cooperative is doing everything we can to make decisions that are in the ultimate best interest of our members and our communities.

And building a better cable system is definitely in everyone's best interest. Stay tuned!▲



Tom Wing is General Manager of New Hope Telephone Cooperative

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. 2 February 2008

is a monthly magazine published by New Hope Telephone Cooperative, ©2008. It is distributed without charge to all Cooperative members/owners.

New Hope Telephone Cooperative
P.O. Box 452
New Hope, AL 35760
www.nehp.net

For Customer Service: Call 723-4211

For Editorial Advertising:

Call Tammy Pritchett, 256-723-8004
or email communicator@nehp.net

Produced for NHTC by:

WordSouth Public Relations, Inc.
www.WordSouth.com

On the cover:

New Hope Police Chief Shannon Hoover shown in front of City Hall.
Read an interview with the new chief on Page 8.

Scholarships available to local seniors



There are scholarship opportunities from NHTC awaiting seniors from both New Hope and DAR High Schools. Ask your guidance counselor for an application for a \$500 scholarship from NHTC. The cooperative will award one scholarship to a deserving senior from each school.

Scholarships are also available through the Foundation for Rural Services (FRS). Established in 1994 by the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association (NTCA), the FRS organization promotes, educates and advocates rural telecom issues in order to sustain and enhance the quality of life within communities throughout rural America. FRS awards 30 scholarships for \$2,000 annually to deserving youth from rural communities. If a student from DAR or New Hope receives the FRS scholarship, NHTC will

contribute \$500 making the total received \$2,500. Applications must be postmarked no later than March 1, so ask your guidance counselor for an application today!

All scholarships are made available without regard to race, ethnicity, national origin, religion, gender or disability.

Please join us

*NHTC will hold their
3rd Annual*

*Customer Appreciation Day
on Thursday, February 14th
from 8:30 a.m. until 4:30 p.m.
at the NHTC Business Office.*

*Everyone is invited to stop by
our office for refreshments
and to visit and meet the staff.*

*Register for door prizes
to be given away throughout
the day.*

*We hope to see you
on Valentine's Day!*

Style
for a new you!

**Hair
BUZZARR
& Nails**

"For an experience like no other"

723-2899 | MONDAY - FRIDAY 9:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
SATURDAY 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Join the team! Booth rental is available. Call or stop by for details.

The perfect date for
Valentine's Day.

Pizza and
a Movie?
Your place
or mine?

**G&G
PIZZA**

723-4181 • Hwy 431 S. • New Hope

Computer not working for you?

Computers are a part of our everyday lives. It would be hard to imagine life without them. However, some people cannot imagine a life without computer trouble in some form.

Although they appear to have a mind of their own at times, a computer is a machine. And a machine is supposed to do what it is told. The biggest frustration with computer hardware and software is figuring out who told it to do what it did, or why it is not doing what you told it to do.

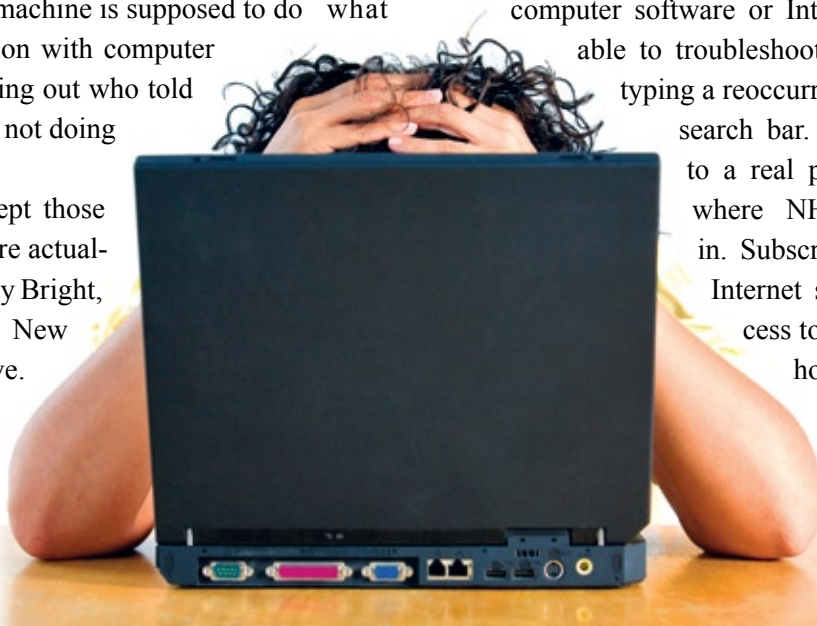
“All computer errors, except those caused by mechanical failure are actually human errors,” explains Rusty Bright, Network Administrator for New Hope Telephone Cooperative. “The hardest part is figuring out who caused the error; the computer programmer or the end user.”

Internet surfing is entertaining and educational, but

it opens up a whole world of virtually vexing variables. Viruses, worms, spy-ware and other malicious software can cause undesirable behavior and slow down your computer’s performance.

There are many Web sites available to help you answer your computer software or Internet questions. You may be able to troubleshoot some problems yourself by typing a reoccurring error message in a Google search bar. But sometimes a phone call to a real person is the answer. This is where NHTC’s friendly staff comes in. Subscribers to any one of NHTC’s Internet service options also have access to their Internet tech support 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

If you have a question for your Internet Service Provider, here are some things you will need to know to help the help desk help you.



BEFORE YOU CALL YOU SHOULD:

- ▶ Have your user name, password, and email address on hand.
- ▶ Be able to tell them what kind of computer you are using.
- ▶ Know what kind of operating system is on your computer... Windows XP, Mac OS X, Tiger, etc.
- ▶ What kind of Internet browser are you using? Microsoft Internet Explorer 7.0, Firefox, Safari, etc.
- ▶ Know what email program you use...Microsoft Outlook Express, Entourage or Mac Mail.
- ▶ Make notes of reoccurring error messages that appear while you are online.
- ▶ Have your computer up and running before you call.
- ▶ Have a basic understanding

of computer and Internet terminology to better understand and communicate with the tech support. A glossary of common terms may be helpful.

COMMON DIAL-UP DILEMMAS

- ▶ If you have an external modem, make sure the phone line is connected and that it is turned on.
- ▶ If you have call waiting make sure the feature is turned off.
- ▶ Know the brand and model of your modem.
- ▶ If you have voice mail with NHTC, a waiting message may interfere with your modem’s connection to the Internet.
- ▶ Your connection can be disrupted due to line noise. Phone line extenders, splitters, strong magnetic

fields, or a faulty phone jacks can cause line noise. Try changing locations, plugging directly in to the phone jack or using a different phone jack to connect to the Internet.

- ▶ Check your email software program settings for connecting and disconnecting to the Internet. Some programs are set to ‘Hang Up after sending and receiving.’

**If you still need
Internet Tech Support
after trying these
helpful tips, call
723-8940 anytime.
We’re available 24/7
for your convenience.**



DO YOU NEED HELP PAYING FOR TELEPHONE SERVICE?

You may qualify for these two special programs:

- **LIFELINE**

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

- **LINK-UP**

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

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

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

**TO FIND OUT IF YOU QUALIFY FOR THESE PROGRAMS CALL
NEW HOPE TELEPHONE COOPERATIVE AT 723-4211**

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.



ARE YOU PREPARED FOR THE ROAD AHEAD?

Start securing your future today with an IRA from Citizen's Bank.



CITIZENS

BANK & TRUST

Our Greatest Asset is You

Our hometown staff can help you prepare for retirement.

Call us at 256-723-4600

5053 Main Drive • New Hope, AL

www.citizensbanktrust.com

member FDIC

EQUAL HOUSING
LENDER

Graduation Coach Claude Lang helping schools fight drop-out rate

When a student leaves high school without graduating, he or she sets their life on a hard course. Dropouts have a difficult time finding a good-paying job, and often earn considerably less over their lifetime than those who graduate high school and college. Further, statistics show that dropouts are much more likely to find themselves in prison or on welfare.

New Hope High School is doing something about its drop-out rate. The school applied for and received a grant to hire a “graduation coach,” a person whose main focus is on helping more students successfully complete their high school careers. School officials hope the concept will have the same success here that it is having in other states.

“In our area, it can be a struggle to keep kids motivated to stay in school,” says Claude Lang, who became New



Claude Lang is excited about the opportunity to help students succeed as New Hope High School's graduation coach.

Hope High School's graduation coach toward the end of the first semester. “But we're going to try to identify problems before they get here, to keep students from getting discouraged.”

Part of Lang's job is to encourage community involvement, to build stronger relationships between the schools, parents and the local business community. He has created opportunities for people to help with tutoring, provide part-time jobs for students, supply merchandise for incentives, or donate money to support the overall program.

He is also working on a senior mentoring program that takes NHHS 12th-graders into middle school and elementary classrooms. “We want to start with younger students,” he says, “and shape their opinions of staying in school.”

Lang works with other faculty members to identify students who may be at risk of dropping out of school. Low grades and a poor attendance record are just two of the warning indicators.

“Our goal is to ensure students are prepared to pass the graduation exam,” Lang says. “We are going to do all we can to help our students stay in school.”

This is not only the goal of the school, it is a personal goal for Lang. A 1974 graduate of NHHS, Lang attended college and then spent 27 years working for Dunlop Tire. When the plant closed, he finished his degree in education and was blessed to find a job in his hometown as a 9th grade electives teacher.

Lang is excited about his new challenge as graduation coach. “I'm following my heart on this one,” he says. “I feel like God put me here.” And he is ready to make a difference, one student at a time. ▲

New Hope High School Teacher of the Month



Meet Mrs. Owen. She teaches Art at New Hope High School. You'll see her around campus working with the yearbook staff, Anchor Club, and Art Club.

Mrs. Owen is from Tuscaloosa. There she earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree from the University of Alabama with a concentration in painting. She also has a Master's in Art Education.

This art enthusiast loves living in the area and teaching in a small community. She also enjoys spending time with her 10-year-old daughter, Ashlynn and her favorite book, the Bible.

Patti Owen is just one of the outstanding teachers of New Hope High School. Look for another excellent educator right here in your *Communicator* next month.

“A Doctor’s Confession to the Towns of New Hope and Grant...”

And why, despite all, I still do what I do...

Dear Friend,

Confessions are tough. Real tough. But, sometimes a confession can set the record straight, and I want to give credit where credit is due. Before I talk about my confession though let me say a few other things first.

Let me start by explaining the photo in this letter. You know, when I meet people in town they usually say, “*Oh yeah, I know you. You’re Dr. Mike. I’ve seen your ad with that picture of you and two cute little kids.*” Well, I’m the guy on the left.

Years ago something happened to me that changed my life forever. Let me tell you my story.

“My Dad was a construction worker, but had been unable to work for eight months due to severe low back & leg pain. Luckily, we didn’t have too many bills and he was able to sell a few calves along the way, but he was starting to worry about his future and his family’s livelihood. After considering surgery (that was the only option, according to the surgeon) he decided against it. *But, there’s more...*

About that time our next door neighbor came back home from school, where he had recently graduated and opened up a practice. My dad decided to give this rookie doctor a try. On his first day in practice my dad saw this new doctor, who did an exam, took some x-rays, and then adjusted his spine. The adjustment didn’t hurt, it actually felt great. *Oh, did I mention that the doctor is a Chiropractor?*

Before you knew it my dad was back at work and he did not miss another day until he retired. I was so impressed with the miracle of chiropractic I decided to go to chiropractic school myself. And that’s how it happened.

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 February 29, 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.**

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.

Hoover brings world experience to New Hope police department

What is a former United Nations officer, with assignments in Kosovo and Afghanistan, doing in New Hope, Alabama? He is the city's new police chief.

The New Hope City Council recently hired Shannon Hoover to replace retiring police chief Larry Lutrell. Hoover brings a rich and varied law enforcement background to the position.

Hoover's career in law enforcement began more than 13 years ago when he graduated from the Illinois State Police Academy and joined the Rock Island police force. When his brother and parents moved to South Carolina, he joined his family and graduated from the South Carolina Criminal Justice Academy.

After working for a number of years as a sheriff's deputy in a specialized drug interdiction unit, Hoover was ready for another challenge. He applied for an overseas position as an international law enforcement officer.

The requirements were very specific, and Hoover says he was surprised when he received a call telling him he was eligible for pre-deployment training. He traveled to the training location, just outside of Washington, D.C., where he underwent a series of difficult testing procedures.

"This included psychological tests, to see if you have the mental fortitude to travel to a

foreign country in a war zone on a peace-keeping mission as a representative of the United States of America."

Headed for Kosovo

Hoover successfully completed the training, and in 2002 was deployed to Kosovo. "The country was still very much in a post-war status after NATO's involvement," he says. He volunteered for Special Operations.

Out of 36 American applicants, he was one of only three who were accepted. He entered into a training program that was very different from the training he had been exposed to stateside. "It was led

by international instructors from police organizations all over world," Hoover recalls. "It was a very demanding course."

Hoover graduated, and was certified as a special operator working in close protection. He had the opportunity to serve as commander on several covert operations to protect war crimes witnesses brought in by the United Nations. "These were high priority targets," Hoover says. "It was extremely dangerous work."

Hoover served a second tour in Kosovo, and was presented with opportunities few law enforcement officers experienced. "I worked with the Macedonian government in initiating their witness protection program," he says. He worked with ambassadors from other countries as well.

Hoover cherishes these experiences. "These were opportunities I never would have had under any other circumstances," he says. "It helped me to develop the skills to lead, and to develop a small team of men and women to work effectively toward a common goal."

Afghan advisors

Following Kosovo, Hoover served in Afghanistan. His time there was spent under very different conditions. "We had executive authority in Kosovo," he explains. This meant he and fellow officers



had the same powers they had in their police departments back home, including arrests and search warrants.

“In Afghanistan, we no longer had executive authority,” Hoover says. “We were there in an advisory capacity only.” Even though training and related oversight was his primary purpose while there, Hoover and his fellow officers were in danger every day in the violent environment.

A new challenge

Coming back to the United States was a bit rattling, admits Hoover, and he thought carefully about his next career move.

“I decided that I needed to use the knowledge and experience I had gained and to be more focused,” he says. “I felt ready at this point in my career to take

the helm, ready to lead a team in a managerial capacity.”

Searching online for opportunities, Hoover found New Hope. City council members interviewed him over the phone, then brought him in for an interview in person. He became New Hope’s police chief in November.

Hoover says he feels he has been groomed for this new challenge through his training, and that he is ready to take New Hope’s police department “to another level in the field of law enforcement.”

He adds that the city council has given him the impression that they are “ready to turn a corner, ready for new a approach to providing protection to the citizens.”

To learn about some of Hoover’s plans to bring the New Hope police department “to a level that meets the standard in modern-day policing,” see next month’s issue of *The Communicator*.



Chief Hoover (right) and Officer Barry Childers outside the New Hope City Hall.

723-2835
mrfixit@nehp.net

Mr. Fix It

Hi folks, I'm Lucy. My parents, Harlan & Kim Worley, own Mr. Fix It. If you have a home improvement project you've been putting off, give them a call. Start to finish, they can turn your dream into a reality. Whether you want an addition, a complete remodel, or just need a light fixture replaced they can help. And unlike me, they clean up their mess when they're finished.

Call on us for all your home improvements & repairs

EL PASO
MEXICAN RESTAURANT

Fun for the Whole Family

The Best Mexican Cuisine in Town

Live Music on Friday Nights

Karaoke Every Friday from 9 to Midnight

\$1.00 OFF ENTREE
Limit 1 coupon per visit.
Offer good through February 28, 2008.

10160 Hwy 431 ♦ New Hope ♦ 256.723.2399

City of New Hope adopts ordinance for land developers

In October 2007, the New Hope city council voted unanimously to approve a new ordinance that will enhance the quality of life for New Hope residents.

Ordinance No. 323 was created to establish guidelines for open burning. According to New Hope Fire Chief Ronald Schrimsher it applies to persons clearing land for development purposes inside the city of New Hope.

"This is for persons who are clearing land to build a house, or fence, people clearing lots for a subdivision and those who burn limbs, grass clippings and trees commercially. It does not apply to residents burning raked leaves or shrub trimmings."

Anyone clearing for land development must obtain a burn permit from the city of New Hope. This is in addition to the permit required by the State Forestry

Commission. To get the State permit, you must call 1-800-572-2017. Before you call make sure you have your land deed on hand. The range, section and township must be correctly identified before the state permit can be issued.

The permit from New Hope has two sections. The first is signed by a representative for the city. The second section is signed by the Fire Chief after approval from an on-site inspection.

During the on-site inspection the Fire Chief will make sure:

- a proper pit has been dug
 - only clean wood will be burned
 - an air curtain destructor or other suitable device is in place
 - extinguishing equipment is on hand
- Once approved, the permit is good for 10 days from the start of the burn. The fee for each permit is \$100.

However, the penalty for burning without a permit could be more costly and might include a trip to jail.

"I want people to understand this was established to provide the people of New Hope with a greater quality of life and for environmental purposes," says Schrimsher.

Smoke contains harmful pollutants and toxic irritants. Smoke causes eye, nose, throat and lung irritation. And heavy smoke can cause poor visibility for driving. "An air curtain provides a much cleaner burn. It burns a tremendous amount of wood quickly," explains Chief Schrimsher. "And there's much less smoke."

If you have questions about the ordinance, call New Hope City Hall at 723-2616. This only applies to burns done inside New Hope city limits.▲



Every Loan Doesn't Fit In The Same Box... We Will Customize Your Loan For You!

Conventional Loans

- Several 100% Programs
- 10 to 40 Year Fixed-Rate Loans
 - Adjustable Rate Loans
 - Interest Only Loans
- Investor & 2nd Home Loans
- Stated/Stated or Stated/Verified Programs

FHA Loans

- 100% Loans with Down Payment Assistance Still Available
- Fixed & Adjustable Rate Loans
 - FHA Secure
 - No Credit Score Limit
- Purchases and Refinances

VA Loans

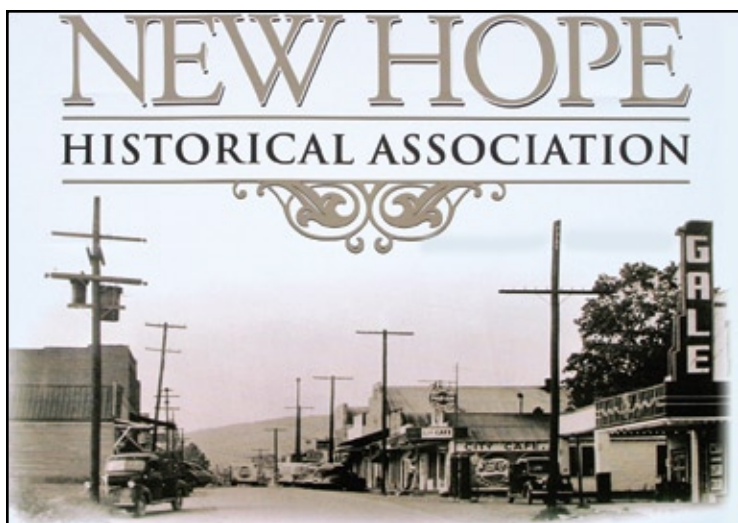
- 100% for Veterans
- Streamline Refinances Available
 - Great Rates
 - Easy Qualifying
- Personalized Service



8606 Simpson Point Rd. • Grant, AL 35747
Residential Mortgage #11486

STEVE GREEN
Senior Loan Officer
800-585-2684 — Approval Line
sgreen@homeamericamortgage.com





The NHHA is currently working on documentation of the New Hope Cemetery for listing with the Alabama Historic Cemetery Register. Now is your opportunity to join NHHA and help with the collection and recording of this historic information. The next NHHA meeting will be held Monday, February 18 at 7:00 p.m. at the NHHA Museum on Main Street. Annual membership dues are \$25 for individuals and \$35 per family.



**You Can Always Count On
Dependable Service
At An Affordable Price**

*Marty Williams, Owner, Certified HVAC Contractor
Phone 426-9779, 723-2477 or 426-3983*

- Service All Makes and Models • Custom Installation & Repair • Residential & Light Commercial
- Maintenance Agreements Available

GET READY FOR PRE-K!

Pre-K Registration is coming soon! If your child will be four years-old by September 1, 2008 they can sign-up for Pre-K at New Hope Elementary. There are 2 half day classes available and day care services are offered at an affordable rate. Space is limited so sign-up early! Call 723-8879 for more information.

✝ Inspiration Corner

Welcome February! Saint Valentine's Day reminds us to pay special attention to the love of our life, and for good reason. Proverbs 17:22 says, "A merry heart is like good medicine: but a broken spirit dries the bones". The statistical truth in that statement is married couples live longer and healthier than their single counterparts. The merriment of the heart comes into play as well. Some folks can be married and not be merry, but as Paul Harvey reports, a man who kisses his wife every morning before leaving lives an average of five years longer than a man who doesn't. Imagine that, science supporting scripture! So what does a merry heart have to do with marriage? It has to do with loving as God designed love.

The Oxford Dictionary defines Love as "an intense feeling of deep

affection. A deep romantic or sexual attachment to someone. A great interest and pleasure in something". This definition exemplifies the world's idea of love; short sentences with a period at the end. God's definition, however, replaces those periods with commas so the marriage relationship incorporates all of those things. To separate them as the world does leaves a void in the heart, like making biscuits and leaving out the egg, the milk, or shortening. They come out like dry bones. If you are missing the merriment of marriage, try inviting the One who created marriage into the relationship? The God of ultimate sacrificial LOVE can be found in a church near you.



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

*Angel Food Packages can be ordered Feb. 28 - Mar. 1
and picked up on March 17 between 8 a.m. and 9:30 a.m.*

The tradition continues

A new society has been formed in Grant. The Gunter Mountain Society Children of the American Revolution (CAR) was formed and organized last December.

The national society was founded in 1895 by Harriett Lothrop. She had a vision for the training of young people. Her vision is summed up in the mission statement for the organization which reads, "The National Society of the Children of the American Revolution trains good citizens, develops leaders and promotes love of the United States of America and its heritage among young people."

An organizing meeting was held at the Michigan Center on the Kate Duncan Smith DAR School Campus. Officers and members from across the state were

in attendance. Libby Bevel, a representative of the Gunter Mountain DAR Chapter, presented a gavel to Diana Turner, Senior Society President.

Children performed duties during the ceremony and presented letters of appreciation to local World War II Veterans.

There are currently twenty-one members of the society. Membership is open to anyone under the age of 21, lineally descended from someone who served in the Continental Army or gave material aid to the cause of freedom in the American Revolution.

CAR is the oldest, largest patriotic youth organization in the country. The Gunter Mountain Society CAR has already begun work on several projects. They plan to attend the state meeting held in Montgomery later this month.▲



MEMBERS OF THE GUNTER MOUNTAIN SOCIETY CHILDREN OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION pictured (L to R/ Top to Bottom): Diana Turner, Senior Society President; Gary Markham, State President; Rhonda Van Zandt, Honorary State President; Tara Frazier; Wyatt Buffington; Easton Jones; Daniel Newton; Chandler Beard; Abbie Casey; Lauren Frazier; Georgia Turner; Anthony Frazier; Aubrey Brown; Kaylee Myers; Jonah Sutton; Ben Sutton; and Anderson Turner. Not pictured are: Morgan Newton; Brooke Frazier; Jacob Mitchell; Regan Mitchell; Chelsea Brewer; and Chandler Brewer.

PASTOR'S NOTES



BY LARRY BISHOP, PASTOR
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
NEW HOPE

Having served in New Hope for the past several years, I have learned about some notable landmarks (Humpback Bridge, the bend, Hunt's Barn, and the tree). Newcomers may never know about these sites because they are being removed.

First, it was Hunt's Barn. It has been removed and a new subdivision is now being developed. Next, the tree has been cut down and where it once stood is nothing but a level spot.

The tree was an old oak that marked the entrance of New Hope for many years. I've heard people say, "If that tree could only talk, oh the stories it could tell." Perhaps you have some fond memories?

The removal of these so-called landmarks is redefining our community. One day there will be a generation within the city of New Hope that will not know anything about these sites. Their location and stories surrounding them will rely on the memories of the generations that used them as a source of geographical location.

It reminds me of the Old Testament story that tells of a people who had forgotten the things that the Lord had done for them. Judges 2:10 states, "After that generation died, another generation grew up who did not acknowledge the LORD or remember the mighty things he had done for Israel."

With the changes taking place in our community, maybe it is time for us to start paying attention to what the Lord has provided. Have you visited one of the local churches lately?

See you in church Sunday!

DAR School essay winners

The students of DAR middle school were challenged recently to imagine what it would be like to be a spy during the American Revolution. Their thoughts

were captured in an essay writing competition sponsored by the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

This year's topic for the American History Essays was "I Spy - Espionage During the American Revolution." There were more than 200 entries.

11 chapter members from the DAR Gunter Mountain Chapter served as judges. They had the difficult task of awarding first, second and third places to grades fifth through eighth.

Each of the winners received a certificate signed by the President General of the National Society of the DAR. The first place winners

also received a \$50 United States Savings Bond and will compete at the state level.

The winners were:

Fifth Grade

1st Place, Devon Nelson; 2nd Place, Cenorina Phillips; and 3rd Place, Christopher Clark.

Sixth Grade

1st Place, Michael Kenamer; 2nd Place, Trent Lemaster; Samantha Sparks; and Michael Davis.

Seventh Grade

1st Place, Chandler Brewer; 2nd Place, Clint Guffey; and 3rd Place, Luke Randall Burgett.

Eighth Grade

1st Place, Riley Ray Jones; 2nd Place, Jessica Birdsong; and 3rd Place, Maston Edmonds.▲



First place winners of the DAR essay contest were (L to R): Michael Kenamer; Chandler Brewer; Riley Jones and Devon Nelson.



We're Celebrating

40 years

of Excellence in Banking

1968 - 2008

Peoples State Bank of Commerce

Grant, AL

728-4213 • www.psboc.com

5399 Main St. • Grant, AL



Come join the celebration!

Friday, Feb. 22nd

Enjoy refreshments and doorprizes!

Don't forget to sign up for FREE Online Banking with FREE Bill Pay!

RECIPES FROM NEW HOPE SENIOR CENTER

Are you sixty or older? Do you enjoy visiting with friends? Would you like to make new friends? Then the New Hope Senior Center might be for you.

Every weekday from 8 a.m. until 1 p.m. area seniors meet at the Senior Center and talk with friends; play dominos, puzzles and cards; they exercise and even line dance. Many participate in quilting as well.

On Saturday evenings from 5:30 until 9 p.m. the

center has live music and dancing for seniors.

Among this active group are a few great cooks, too. They share several crowd pleasers this month, including an apple pie that makes its own crust. "The apple pie spice is the difference," explains Georgia. "In my experience it just makes a better pie than cinnamon."

If you would like to learn more about the New Hope Senior Center call Brenda Phillips at 723-2208.

Chicken Salad

(Senior Center)

2 cups chicken breast, cooked and diced
1/2 tsp. salt
2 Tbsp. lemon juice
1 cup celery, chopped
1 cup seedless white grapes
2 hard boiled eggs, cut up
4 Tbsp. fat free mayonnaise
1/4 cup slivered almonds
1 Tbsp. onion, grated

Sprinkle chicken with lemon juice and salt. Chill. Combine other ingredients. Add to chilled chicken and toss lightly.

Apple Pie That Makes Its Own Crust

(Georgia Cooper)

2 cups cooking apples, chopped and peeled
1/2 cup flour
1/2 cup sugar
1 stick butter
1/4 tsp. apple pie spice
1 unbaked pie shell

Mix flour, sugar and spice together. Pour chopped apples in unbaked pie shell. Sprinkle flour mixture over apples. Melt butter. Pour over flour.

Bake in oven at 350° about 30 minutes or until golden brown.

Vegetable Beef Soup

(Senior Center)

1 lb. extra lean ground beef
14.5 oz. stewed tomatoes
10.25 oz. tomato soup
1 chopped onion
2 cups water
15.25 oz. can garbanzo beans
15.25 oz. can corn, drained
14.5 oz. can sliced carrots, drained
1 cup potatoes, diced
1 cup celery, chopped
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper

Saute ground beef in a non stick pan. Drain off any grease. Combine all ingredients in slow cooker. Cook on low heat for 4 to 6 hours. Garlic may be added if desired.

Georgia's Pecan Pie

(Georgia Cooper)

3 whole eggs
3/4 cup sugar
touch of flour
1/2 cup corn syrup
1 tsp. vanilla
1 cup pecans

Combine sugar, flour and eggs. Beat well. Add syrup and vanilla. Mix well. Pour into uncooked deep dish pie shell. Sprinkle top with pecans. Bake for 1 hour at 350°.

Granny Maples' Egg Pie

(Amy Lemley)

1 cup sugar
1 cup milk
3 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
2 tsp. flour

Beat eggs until fluffy. Add remaining ingredients and mix well. Pour in an uncooked pie shell then bake at 300° for 50 to 60 minutes.

French Coconut Pie

(Amy Lemley)

1 stick butter
1-1/2 cups sugar
1/4 cup buttermilk
3 eggs
1 tsp. vanilla
dash of salt
1 can coconut

Combine all ingredients. Pour into unbaked pie shell. Bake at 350° for 45 minutes.

Puppy Love



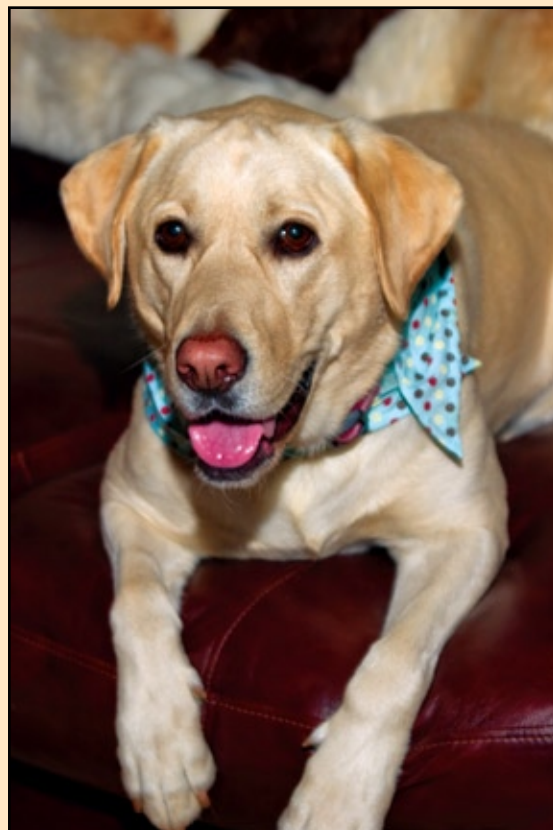
Mia (Black and White) and Beau (white and Tan) with Michela Keel. Photo taken by Mom Frita Fears.



Mason Wells and Mattie. Photo taken by Melissa Swann.



Deuce goes to work with his owner Mike Page everyday. Photo taken by Kedia Page.



Lucy in her new bandana. Her mom and dad are Kim and Harlan Worley.

"April Showers" is the photo theme for April. Send pictures matching the photo theme to: NHTC • Attn: Tammy Pritchett • 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) **Deadline for April is February 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.

Go ahead with your life. We'll catch the phone.



Voice Mail from NHTC:

- Will never wear out
- Can answer multiple calls
- Cannot be damaged by lightning
- Works even when the power is off
- Will answer all incoming calls, even while you're on the phone
- Makes it easy to check messages when away from home

Get Voice Mail... *and get on with your life!*

New Hope
Telephone Cooperative
Your Communications Connection

Sign up for Voice Mail now and pay no connection fee!

*Offer good through
February 29, 2008*

New Hope Telephone Cooperative
P.O. Box 452
New Hope, Alabama 35760

Pre-sort
Standard
US POSTAGE PAID
Metro Mail
36201