

A Publication of New Hope Telephone Cooperative

The

Communicator

Vol. 8, No. 10

9

A photograph of a science lab for elementary students. The background is a large mural of a space scene with two astronauts in white and blue suits floating in a starry blue space. One astronaut is holding a long, glowing pink light saber. In the foreground, there is a white table with various science supplies: a model of the solar system in a brown frame, a small globe on a stand, a blue tray, and some books. A white box sits on a stand to the right. Blue plastic chairs are visible in the bottom corners.

**AN 'OUT OF THIS WORLD'
SCIENCE LAB FOR
ELEMENTARY STUDENTS**

**New Hope City Council
hires new police chief**

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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On the cover:

Artist Donny Walker painted murals on the walls of the new state-of-the-art science lab for students at NHES. See story on page 8.

Manager's Comments

NHTC is on cutting edge of technology



There has been a lot of talk recently about stimulus funds earmarked for broadband Internet access.

Broadband Internet is critical to the economic survival and revival of rural communities all across America — communities just like ours.

An increasing number of businesses and schools have come to rely on the speed of broadband Internet. Broadband technology allows our students and teachers to access infinite amounts of information with the click of a mouse — quite a change from the Encyclopedia Britannica books many of us relied on as children. With broadband, our schools can take full advantage of the most innovative educational tools in the world.

That is why it is so important for rural areas to have access to this service. Fortunately, your cooperative saw the importance of broadband Internet service years ago and positioned ourselves to deliver the excellent service you enjoy today.

Because NHTC has remained on strong financial footing, when the time came we were able to invest in a infrastructure that has the ability to deliver the most advanced services in the world. Unfortunately, not all communications providers had the financial resources or the foresight to see how important broadband service would become.

In February, the federal economic

stimulus bill allocated \$7.2 billion to improve broadband service in the U.S. The funds are to be dispersed by the National Telecommunications Information Administration and the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service in two phases.

The first phase will release \$4 billion. Of that, only \$2.4 billion will be directed to rural areas. To date, more than 2,200 parties have joined the bread line seeking nearly \$28 billion in government assistance for broadband projects. That is more than seven times the money available for phase one of this program alone.

Many rural advocates recall the decisions our nation made decades ago to use federal funds to extend electricity and phone service to all Americans, including those in the most remote and least-populated places. They view broadband as a similar kind of right to infrastructure.

Regardless of how you feel about the federal stimulus package or other government assistance programs, I think we can all agree that we are blessed and can be proud we are not one of the thousands of organizations standing on the outside looking in, standing in that long line with our fate in the hands of the government.

This cooperative is, and always will be, self-sufficient. We do not need stimulus funds to build a broadband network. We've built our own. And that's something to be proud of. ▲

Tom Wing

*General Manager,
New Hope Telephone Cooperative*

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ACCEPTING SEALED BIDS - NHTC is accepting sealed bids on a 1999 Chevy 3500 HD with a 7.4 Liter Vortec Gas Engine and 29 Foot Versalift Bucket. Sealed bids may be mailed or dropped off at the NHTC Business Office, Attn: Tom Wing, 5415 Main Drive, New Hope, AL 35760. Bids will be accepted through October 30, 2009. The winning bidder will be notified November 2, 2009. NHTC reserves the right to reject all bids.

NHTC targeted in email scam

In the past few months, New Hope Telephone Cooperative members have received a number of emails requesting their personal email login information. Unfortunately, these emails were not from NHTC, but rather an Internet scammer.

Emails claiming to be from NHTC inaccurately inform customers that the cooperative has lost customer login information and request that members reply to the email with that information.

"We don't send out emails often, and never request customers' personal information," says NHTC Network Administrator Rusty Bright. "It appears that the individuals who have sent these emails want to use NHTC email addresses to mass-email, or spam, hundreds or thousands of people."

Any financial or other personal information kept on a member's email becomes vulnerable as well.

Bright says if a member is in doubt about the legitimacy of an email, they should not respond to it.

"If you think the email is not from us, we don't mind you calling and asking," Bright says. "We simply are not going to ask you for a response in email."

"If we send out a survey, it will be written and either in *The Communicator* or mailed," Bright continues. "We can't reach all of our customers via email because all of our customers do not have email so it's just not something we would do."

Bright says most importantly, members should always be alert and aware of who they are in contact with online. "And please," he adds, "if you are suspicious of an email that appears to come from NHTC, give us a call."

If you receive a suspicious email, call Rusty Bright at 256-723-4211.

Christmas Share Program helps area kids

Residents of Owens Cross Roads and New Hope are fortunate to have the Community Christmas Share Program. The programs distributes Christmas presents to children throughout the community who might not otherwise receive any. Those gifts are made possible by donations from kindhearted individuals and area merchants.

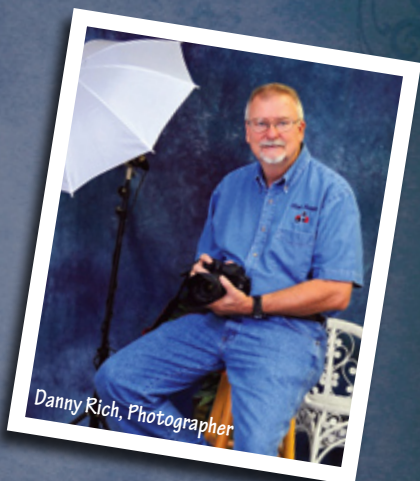
If you know a child that would benefit from Christmas Share, please contact Sandra Luna at 256-725-7536 or 256-975-1460. An application must be filled out for each child and there is a verification process so it is important to call early.

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NEW HOPE PUBLIC LIBRARY

OCTOBER CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- | | |
|---|--|
| Oct 1 Friends of the Library 6:00 pm | Oct 12 Teen Homework 5-8:00 pm |
| Oct 2 Teen Book Club 5:00 pm | Oct 17 Early Elem K-3 10:30 am |
| Oct 3 Magic Show with Mr. Krugh 10:30 am | Oct 19 Teen Homework 5-8:00 pm |
| Oct 5 Teen Homework 5-8:00 pm | Oct 26 Teen Homework 5-8:00 pm |
| Oct 6 Children's Story Hour 10:30 am | Oct 27 Children's Story Hour 10:30 am |
| Oct 8 Geneology 7:00 pm | Oct 29 Children's Story Hour 10:30 am |
| Oct 9 Sit-N-Knit 5:30 pm | Oct 30 "Danse Immortelle: A Vampire Masquerade Ball" 8-Midnight at the Main Huntsville Library |
| Oct 12 New Hope Inspirational Book Club 1:00 pm | Oct 31 Early Elem K-3 10:30 am |

October is National Coop Month

NHTC is proud to be a cooperative. We invite you to join us each Friday in October as we celebrate what makes us truly different — our members. Stop by for free cokes and popcorn and register for door prizes to be given away each week. Plus, register for a BUNDLE any Friday during October and receive a \$10 credit on your first month's bill!

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at our Founder's
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(October 10)
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a \$10 credit
on your first
month's bill!**

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Madison County Health Department offers free services at New Hope Children's Clinic

The Madison County Health Department recently set up a satellite office at the New Hope Children's Clinic to provide immunizations, vaccinations and other services for residents of all ages.

The New Hope Children's Clinic is not open on Fridays, leaving the facility available for use by the health department. Every Friday from 8:30 a.m. until 4 p.m., Madison County Health Department officials are on-site at the Children's Clinic to perform a number of free services for people in the area.

"We've noticed over the years that a small percentage of our clients come from outside the city of Huntsville," says Madison County Health Officer, Dr. Lawrence Roby. "This is despite the fact that more than 50 percent of the

population lives outside the city."

"We are hoping that by setting up here, we will be able to reach those who are unable to visit our Huntsville office due to lack of time or transportation," Roby explains. "Setting up at the New Hope Children's Clinic provides local residents a much more convenient alternative to the hour round-trip that it takes to get to Huntsville. We will be here as long as there is a need in the community and our services are being utilized."

Roby says the health department also plans to eventually implement the Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and Children (WIC) at the clinic.

"We are close to securing WIC at our New Hope location," Roby says. "It is

basically a program that provides vouchers to buy food or formula at a grocery store, and in addition we provide medical assessment and nutrition education for those who qualify for the program."

Roby says many would be surprised at who is and is not eligible for WIC.

"It is a very liberal income standard to qualify," Roby says. "For instance, a family of four could make over \$30,000 per year and still qualify."

All immunizations and vaccines are given for free at the clinic, regardless of income. Roby says shots are expected to be available by the middle of September. He also wanted to stress that people of all ages are welcome. For more information contact the New Hope Children's Clinic at 256-723-4673.▲

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NHPD chief focuses on crime

New Hope Police Department (NHPD) Chief Richard Foster has wasted no time settling into his new job. Since Foster's arrival on Aug. 3, NHPD has launched an aggressive campaign against drugs and other crimes that affect the city.

Foster comes to New Hope from the Madison County Sheriff's Department where he was an officer for eleven years. This is not his first time to work in New Hope. Before working for the Madison County Sheriff's Department, Foster worked for NHPD for five years.

"I've always had a fondness for New Hope," Foster says. "I've always enjoyed working in this town because of the people. It is good to be back."

Foster says his main focus is to improve the crime rate in New Hope. He says some of the city's worst problems are narcotics, burglaries and gang activity.

"My goal as chief of police is to clean up all criminal aspects of this town," Foster says. "It's about just being aggressive and getting out there and talking to the community—actually listening to people and checking into tips and advice, really just listening to what the people have to say."

Foster's approach to catching criminals and tough stance on drugs have paid off for the city of New Hope. Since August, he and other officers have arrested 17 different individuals for manufacturing

methamphetamine. They have collected and destroyed 12 working labs used to manufacture meth, and have collected over 50 labs that had either previously

month in office, but that it has been challenging due to the controversy surrounding the transition.

"There are several issues about

things that went on here before I arrived that will be addressed," Foster says, "but I assure you we will get to the bottom of it. We are focused on learning from mistakes of the past and doing what it takes to get the job done. We have shown that it is possible to be efficient without all of the bells and whistles that can cause a department to overspend a budget. Everything we have accomplished in the past month, we have done with zero increase in budget."

Foster says the success NHPD has seen in his first month is a result of the hard work of NHPD

Officers Richard Jones, Steven Dick and Ted Newman and the great support seen from the New Hope mayor and city council.

"To tell you the truth, because we are so low-staffed, what we've been able to pull off is pretty amazing," Foster says. "It's been very taxing on us but we've been fortunate so far to have seen enormous support from our mayor and council and the citizens of New Hope."

Chief Richard Foster has been married for more than 30 years to Twalla Foster. They have a son who is a Deputy Sheriff with the Madison County Sheriff's Office, two daughters and seven grandchildren. ▲



Police Chief Richard Foster has wasted no time going after criminals in New Hope.

been used for meth production, or were being set up for meth production. Foster has also helped solve several burglaries, some going back as far as 10 years.

An example of Foster and the NHPD's competence and efficiency is the quick response to a shooting that occurred in New Hope the night of Sept. 6.

After ensuring victims of the shooting received medical attention, Foster coordinated with the Madison County Sheriff's Department to set up a crime scene. Within three hours, three of the four offenders were apprehended. Within six hours all four were behind bars and charged within the Madison County Jail.

Foster says he has enjoyed his first

“How Did A Doctor Save The World Series?”

Back in the mid-90's the Atlanta Braves were struggling through a highly contested World Series. You see the Braves were a franchise who had never won a World Series. In fact, no Atlanta franchise had won a title in football, baseball, hockey or basketball. It was rumored that a lady had placed a hex on Atlanta because of where they had built their stadium, therefore cursing them to endless years of futility.

John Smoltz, who was one of Atlanta's Ace pitchers (in fact he's had more success in the post-season than any of the Braves great pitchers) was having problems with his lower back. In game five, during the pregame show, one of the TV commentators said, “If the Braves win the World Series give a lot of the credit to the team Chiropractor.” The team doctor adjusted Smoltz's back enabling him to pitch. The Braves were able to win their first World Series.

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 is strange how life is, because now people come to see me with their carpal tunnel syndrome problems. They also come to me with their headaches, migraines, chronic pain, neck pain, shoulder and 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 October 30, 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.

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Science lab donated to NHES

New Hope Elementary School will soon have an exciting addition to their facility. Thanks to the generosity of the CARE Center, students from kindergarten through eighth grade will have a new science lab in their school.

"We are very excited to have a lab for our elementary school," says New Hope Elementary School Principal Andrew Caves. "This is something that most elementary schools do not have. We are very fortunate."

Caves says New Hope Elementary School is grateful to the CARE Center for donating the funds that have made getting a lab possible.

"Words just cannot express our gratitude," Caves says. "The CARE Center donated every penny for the lab—from renovating the room to stocking it with supplies and furniture, even hiring an artist to come in and paint custom murals throughout the room. It is difficult to do this lab justice without seeing it firsthand."

Stations will be set up throughout the lab and will be dedicated to different scientific topics, experiments and activities. A scientific demonstration table for instructors is positioned to offer an entire class a prime vantage point while their teachers conduct experiments.

Model planets designed by the same company who provided the solar system model in the Smithsonian will hang from the ceiling after being intricately placed there by scientists from NASA.

The lab is also equipped with a SMART board and an ELMO Teachers Tool. The SMART Board interactive whiteboard operates as part of a system

that is comprised of the interactive whiteboard, a computer and a projector. The components are connected wirelessly, or via USB or cables. A projector connected to the computer projects the computer desktop image onto the interactive, touch-sensitive whiteboard. The interactive whiteboard accepts touch input from a finger, pen or solid object.

and classes from other schools.

"SMART board technology is amazing," Caves says. "Its potential for use as an educational tool is limitless. Anything that can be viewed on a computer can be projected onto the board, and teachers and students can even interact with it. It basically combines a dry erase board that you can write on, with a computer and projector. It can be used to look in on other classrooms, maybe even to connect our science lab to another lab one day."

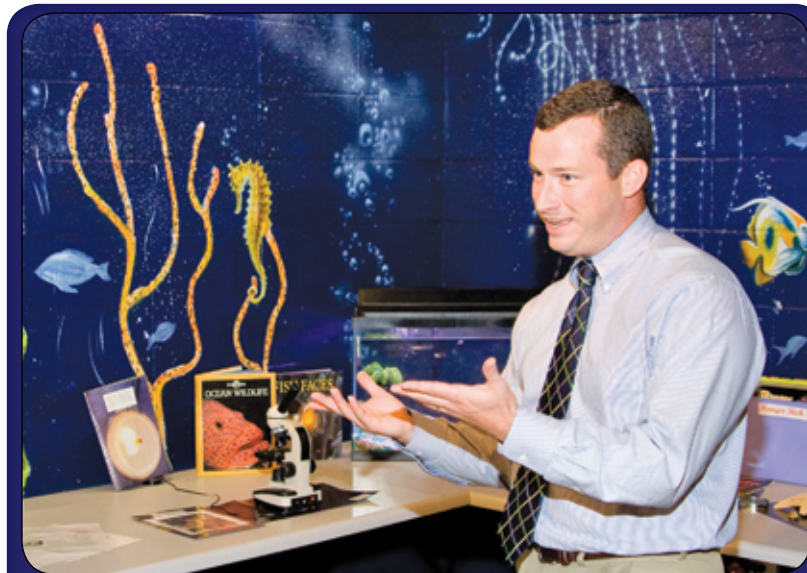
The idea for the science lab came about when the CARE Center took a group of educators and students to tour a lab at Lincoln Elementary School in Huntsville two summers ago.

"After seeing the science lab at Lincoln Elementary, we felt like it could be a huge blessing to have that type of lab at New Hope Elementary," says CARE Center Director Becca Abercrombie. "At the

CARE Center, any time we can give kids a sense of hope that life can be different, that education can be exciting, we try to take that opportunity.

"These kids may never go to Space Camp or SciQuest and this is a way that, in a sense, we can bring that type of experience to them," she explains. "In addition to helping kids improve test scores, hopefully it will spark an interest in science at an early age."

The more than \$30,000 cost of getting the lab up and running was covered by the CARE Center through fundraisers such as their annual 5K run and golf tournament. A large sum of the money



Andrew Caves, New Hope Elementary School Principal, takes a group on tour of the school's new Science Lab. A donation of \$30,000 by the C.A.R.E. Center made the state of the art lab possible.

The ELMO Teachers Tool is a digital camera that connects to the SMART board. It takes high resolution images of an object or document and projects it onto the SMART board. It can even be incorporated with a microscope to project whatever is being magnified onto the screen in high resolution so that all in a class can see the contents of one microscope slide.

With the appropriate software, the SMART board can even connect to other schools or universities anywhere in the world in real time to view lectures or experiments live, or complete experiments or activities in conjunction with students

for the lab came from a fundraiser of member-church Cove United Methodist Church, who raised more than \$100,000 for the CARE Center and the New Hope Children's Clinic in a fundraiser called Giving New Hope.

"We've been able to raise a lot of money through fundraisers," Abercrombie says, "but a good deal of money has come from individuals who have been very faithful to make monthly donations or generous individual contributions. We have been blessed by the support and generosity from the community."

However, Abercrombie says the CARE Center is still raising money for an additional \$10,000 "wish list" of items for the lab.

Caves says the greatest benefit of the new science lab, is the potential to increase students interest in science, which he hopes will better prepare



Murals like this of Albert Einstein "The Father of Modern Physics" cover the walls of the new lab.

students for high school.

"Our test scores show that we need to do a better job of helping our kids

excel in the areas of math and science," Caves says. "We're scoring well in reading, but we really need to raise the bar in math and science to better prepare our students as they enter high school. Hopefully this lab will spark an interest in those areas that will stay with them throughout their educations and lives."

In order to achieve these goals, New Hope Elementary School has taken other measures as well, including hiring two resource teachers to focus on improving in the areas of math and science.

"We believe we are taking steps today that will help our children for the rest of their lives," Caves says. "We are grateful for the generosity of everyone involved with this project."

If you are interested in donating to the science lab at New Hope Elementary School, visit www.thecarecenter.us.▲



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NHHS alum reflects on career

New Hope High School alumnus Jerry Craig is no stranger to hard work. Every day around 6:30 a.m., before many have even had their morning cup of coffee, Craig arrives at his office to begin another day working to help the people of Madison County. For almost 45 years Craig has served the county, first as an educator, and later as Madison County Commissioner.

It seems Craig, a 1960 graduate of NHHS, has always led a busy life. Lettering in two sports while in high school, he was a standout athlete involved with several clubs and organizations including BETA Club and FFA.

“I was involved in about everything there was,” Craig says with a smile. “There just wasn’t anything there.”

“I’m even older than football,” he continues jokingly. “They didn’t start that until the year after I graduated.”

During his senior year of high school, Craig turned down offers to play professional baseball, instead opting to pursue his true passion, playing basketball. Craig’s dream became a reality when he received scholarship offers to play basketball from several schools, including the University of Alabama and Auburn University.

Coaches from both schools offered Craig scholarships as a freshman, but suggested he possibly attend community college in order to gain weight before competing against bigger competition at Division I-AA schools. They left the decision up to him.

“I was so skinny in high school the college coaches recommended that I go to junior college first,” Craig says. “Since I only weighed 150 pounds, I chose the

junior college route.”

Craig accepted a scholarship to play basketball and baseball for Snead State Community College in the fall of 1961.

“It made all the difference in the world too,” Craig continues with a laugh, “because when I left Snead two years later, I weighed 157 pounds instead of only 150.”



In 1962 Craig graduated from Snead and accepted a full athletic scholarship the next year to play basketball for the University of Alabama.

Craig graduated from Alabama in 1965. He began teaching and coaching the same year at Madison County High School, where he would remain until retiring in 1985. Craig received “Coach of the Year” honors five times and led seven teams to the state playoffs.

Over the years Craig worked for several local politicians, and in 1983 ran the famous write-in campaign in Madison County for Alabama State Senator Lowell

Barron. The campaign marked the first write-in victory in the history of the Alabama Legislature. In 1984, at the urging of many friends and colleagues, Craig ran for the Madison County Commission. Twenty-five years and seven terms later he still holds the position.

“I have been very fortunate to have had only two jobs in my life—20 years as an educator and coach and 20 years serving as county commissioner,” Craig says. “And I have loved both jobs greatly. A lot of people are not that lucky.”

As District Three Commissioner for Madison County, Craig represents south and eastern Madison County including New Hope, Owens Cross Roads, Gurley, Hampton Cove and Redstone Arsenal.

Craig says he believes the reason he has been elected seven terms in a row is because he is accessible to the people he represents.

“I go to work every day wanting to do something for somebody,” Craig says. “I believe that being available to the people is very important. I am at my office every day by 6:30 a.m. and go somewhere almost every night to attend a meeting here or an event there, just where ever people need me.”

“I am always available,” he explains. “And I believe the community has realized that and appreciates it.”

During his tenure Craig has consistently worked to improve education, senior services, athletic programs, and roads in his district.

In 1994, he received an award from the International Reading Association for his work in distributing over one million books to schools, libraries, clubs and

organizations.

He has participated in many school projects in and out of his district with concerned parents, PTA's, principals and the Madison County Board of Education.

Craig holds a Master's Degree from the University of Montevallo, and in 1990 was awarded the university's prestigious Alumni Achievement Award.

He has been able to work with the city governments of New Hope, Gurley and Owens Cross Roads to obtain integral water extensions and expand door to door garbage pick-up to match the increase in population. Craig was also instrumental in securing facilities from the YMCA that are now part of the Madison County Recreation Department.

"I want to be very clear and say that by no means have I accomplished anything by myself," Craig says modestly. "I have always had a lot of good help on the commission to accomplish what I sometimes think needs to be done. There are seven of us and it takes us all working together to accomplish our goals."

Despite a very successful career as county commissioner and great support from the community, Craig says he has never been interested in running for a higher office.

"I'm totally satisfied with helping the local folks in the way that we do now," Craig says. "I need to be winding down at my age instead of winding up and heading down to Montgomery."

"Albert Hall always did an outstanding job representing this area in the past, so there was never a need for me to help on that level," Craig explains. "And now Butch Taylor has stepped in and he is doing a wonderful job as well. We are fortunate to have some great men in the state legislature representing this area. I am satisfied to simply serve locally and continue to help the people in this area."

Craig says he plans to continue serving as county commissioner for as long as he can.

"I intend to run as long as I stay healthy and crazy," Craig jokes. "And I believe I am still both of those. In all seriousness, as long as my health permits, I will continue to serve the people of District Three."

Craig's career sets a great example for current students at New Hope High School.

"New Hope High School was a great school when I was there and an even better school today," Craig says. "I would tell students to find something they love and become great at it. They need to find something they will enjoy doing for the rest of their lives."

"It doesn't matter what it is," Craig continues. "A lot of people like to plumb and get in ditches and get dirty. Then there are folks who like to sit in an office. I just encourage them to do what they enjoy. College is good for those who want to go, but for those who don't want to go, there's no need to waste their parent's money or their time.

"The main thing is, find something and work hard at it and to stay straight and out of trouble," he continues. "And above all, never embarrass your folks."

Jerry Craig has been married to Marion "Little Bit" Jones for 41 years.

Their daughter Lynn, a graduate of Athens State College, is an elementary teacher with the Madison County School system.

Craig's son Mark is a graduate of the University of Alabama with a commerce and business degree. He serves as Director of the Madison County License Department.

Craig also has two grandsons, Brady Lynn Parker and Bridges Malone Craig, and one granddaughter, Benton Craig.▲

Legislative Update

By Rep. Butch Taylor

Alabama House of Representatives, Dist. 22



Fall is a wonderful time of year in the South. In our corner of Alabama, the leaves will be changing colors soon and the air will grow cooler —

perfect weather for high school football games or weekend cookouts.

In the State Legislature, fall is the time of year for preparation. Our next session is only three months away, and I'll be working hard over the coming weeks to prepare. When representatives from across the state gather in Montgomery to make decisions that affect your life, you can be sure that I'll be ready to represent the concerns of this district. Your voice will be heard.

Indeed, there is plenty of work to do before the session begins. In December we will have a budget hearing to assess our state's financial situation. Because the Education Appropriations Committee (of which I am a member) decided to spend only half of our state's allotted federal stimulus dollars on the 2009 budget, the cuts will not be as deep as expected. We will apply the remaining stimulus dollars to the 2010 budget.

As next year's session approaches, please keep reading my column in *The Communicator*. Encourage your friends and family to do the same. I will do my best to keep you updated on the many issues facing our state.

On Saturday, October 10, come visit with me at New Hope Founders Day. This is a great community event, and will give us an opportunity to visit and to enjoy this beautiful season.▲

Community Events

October

Collecting Recipes

The New Hope Historical Association is collecting recipes for a cookbook to be sold in conjunction with the 2010 AL Year of Small Towns and Downtowns celebration. Recipe forms may be picked up at the New Hope Library, New Hope City Hall, OCR Town Hall or Grant Town Hall. Forms may be turned in at New Hope City Hall during business hours or NHHA Museum on Founder's Day, Saturday, October 10. Forms may also be mailed to New Hope Historical Association, PO Box 50, New Hope, AL 35760.

October 2-4

13th Annual Ambush at Cavern Cove

Men and women from across the nation gather near Grant, AL to compete in the Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) Alabama State Championship. For more information about the event, visit www.northalabamaregulators.com.

October 3

North Alabama Street Toys Cruise-In

First Saturday of each month through October 3rd at 9 p.m. at the Hardee's restaurant in New Hope. Custom Cars, Street Rods, Trucks and Classic Cars are welcome (no boom boxes). 50/50 drawing, door prizes, awards. No entry fee—just lots of fun! Contact Billy Vann at 723-4631 or Donald Roy Paseur at 723-4500.

October 10

Museum Tours

The New Hope Historical Association will be giving guided tours of the museum at New Hope City Hall during Founder's Day. Tour times are 10:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 2:00 p.m., and 3:30 p.m.

October 18

First Baptist Church of New Hope Homecoming

Special music will be provided by *New Ground*. Sunday School begins at 9:45 a.m., singing at 10:15 a.m., worship service at 11 a.m. Lunch will follow in the Family Life Center.

October 19

7th Annual CARE Center Golf Tournament and Fundraiser

Held at the Huntsville Country Club, lunch is served at 11:00 a.m., shotgun start at 12:00 p.m. Contact Amy Summers at summersaeb@yahoo.com or visit www.thecarecenter.us for more info.

October 23

Eye Exams

The Alabama Lions Club Sight Mobile Screening Unit will be at The CARE Center offering adult eye exams on the afternoon of October 23rd. Contact Charley McPeters at 256-723-4695 for more information.

October 24

New Hope Elementary School Fall Festival

Dinner from 5 - 7 p.m.

Games from 6 - 8 p.m.

Bingo at 7 p.m.

A dance for 5th and 6th graders will be held from 7 - 9 p.m.

A dance for 7th and 8th graders will be held from 9 - 11 p.m.

October 31, Nov. 1, 4, 6 - 8

Judgement House

Hosted by Grant First Baptist Church beginning at 6 p.m. each night. For more information call 728-2246.

November 3

Family Reading Night & Chili Dinner

New Hope Elementary PTO hosts this event at the school at 6:30 p.m. Admission is free for NHES students, adult admission is \$3, or free with PTO membership. Contact the PTO at nhespto@nehp.net for membership information.



New Hope Founder's Day

FRIDAY & SATURDAY, OCTOBER 9 & 10

Friday festivities begin at 5:45 p.m. • Saturday events begin at 9:00 a.m.

HORSESHOETOURNAMENT • TRACTOR SHOW • CLOGGERS • UGLY WALK
CONCESSIONS • RIDES AND GAMES FOR KIDS • PARADE
SINGING • CHILI COOK-OFF • ARTS & CRAFTS

For more information contact Billy Jones, 723-4241



PASTOR'S NOTES

BY LARRY BISHOP, PASTOR
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH
NEW HOPE

Have you ever smashed an anthill? If you are like most people you have either done this intentionally or unintentionally. Either way the results are always the same. It will be just a matter of time before their home is rebuilt. You can put all kinds of obstacles in their path but they will keep working until they find a way over, under, or around the obstruction.

Proverbs 6:6 says, "Go to the ant... consider her ways, and be wise." In essence the ant becomes a teacher and we are encouraged to incorporate their lessons into our lives.

For example, we learn that you will not find a lazy ant. Ants are industrious creatures and are self-motivated. They don't need someone leaning over their shoulder telling them what to do or making them continue to work.

Ants seem never to quit. Unlike many people who frequently fail to meet their full potential, they get discouraged and quit.

Also, ants work for the benefit of the entire colony. You won't find an ant nibbling on a tender morsel of dropped food for his own benefit, he brings it back to the colony so all can share.

Ants are solution-oriented and work to find ways through difficult times. It seems that they never get discouraged.

Solomon's observation centers on the work ethics. Come wind or weather he goes about his business undeterred by the circumstances that surround him providing "meat in the summer, and gathering food in the harvest" (Proverbs 6:8).

The ant, one of God's smallest creatures teaches us lessons of life. Just think how much more we can learn if we would only allow Him to teach us.

See You in Church Sunday.

New Hope High School Teacher Spotlight

This month, the Teacher Spotlight focuses on Joey Parker.

Parker has taught at NHHS for 22 years and held the position of head boys basketball coach for 15 years.

"I have a very rewarding job," he comments. "I have so many stories of my experiences as a drivers education teacher, but it feels great when students come back to let you know you made a difference in their lives."

As a teacher and coach, Parker knows the importance of hard work and motivation both on and off the court. "It is important to instill a certain degree of competitiveness in players, as well as all students," he says. "They can use that drive in the classroom and later when they enter the workforce."

Parker grew up in Decatur, AL, and graduated from Austin High School in 1982. He went on to Wallace State Community College where he played baseball, and later to the University of North Alabama to earn his B.S. degree, and Alabama A & M University for his masters degree.

Coach Parker and his wife, former Beth Phillips of OCR, have two daughters, Jordan, 11, and Janna Beth, 7, who both attend New Hope Elementary School.



✝ Inspiration Corner

The front porches of some antebellum homes have two sets of steps, which symbolize the modesty of pre-civil war America. Their purpose was to keep men from seeing women's ankles as they climbed the steps! Can you imagine what someone from that era would say if they could witness today's society?

The apostle Peter writes, "...beauty should not come from outward adornment, Instead, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight." Peter is not saying outward adornment – clothes, fine jewelry etc, is bad. He is saying however, to have true beauty, we should look within, where God lives. I once worked at a private school where a child got in trouble for sexually acting out. Answering the invitation for a meeting, the mother showed up in a dress

that embarrassed everyone around, and this mom just couldn't understand why her "child" was acting out. I knew a mother who befriended her daughter with the evils of this world, and this mom watched her daughter die from an overdose in a bar one night. Modern parents allow their children to wear revealing clothes, use drugs and alcohol, even birth control, all in the name of "teaching responsibility while they are home." This is not responsibility! This is hiding from the responsibility of parenthood. If you would like help with some of life's toughest problems, there is no better place to look than the Word of God, which can be found in a church near you.



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

COMMUNITY



SNAPSHOTS

Halloween



John Alan Stapler. Picture sent by mom, Mandy Stapler.



Cousins Noah Lewis Irby and David King. Photo submitted by Noah's Nona, Rhonda King. She is David's aunt.



Thomas and Shelby Sutton. Photo by Papa Curt Sutton. Sent by mom, Kristie Sutton.



Savannah Ogle and Ryan Furlough. Picture sent by Tammy Ogle.



Ruby Davis. Picture taken by her brother, Tanner Atchley.



Brynn Atchley. Picture by Rebecca Davis.



Hunter Maples, Blake Pence, Grant Maples and Hayden Kelly. Photo by Janice Franks.



Lenora Lee and Lucy Lee. Photo taken by their PawPaw, Charles F. Witte of OCR.



Samantha and Nathan Morgan.
Children of Tony & Rhonda Morgan.



Garret and Maggie Dudley. Children
of Shane & Nikki Dudley.



Savanna Ginn and Owen Stephens,
Halloween 2008. Photo by Angie Ginn.



Jacob and Jackson Stapler.
Photo by mom, Mandy Stapler.



Blake Pence, son of
Anthony & Windy Pence.



Annie Ogle. Photo sent
by mom, Tammy Ogle.



Back (L to R): Jewel Mathis, Erin Clark, Allison Brown, Emily
Smith, Kursten Cowart, Mary Lou Heatherly, Allie Mathis, Jill Lang
and Meagan Taylor. Front (L to R): Kimberly Mathis, Joy Hosch,
Hannah Cobble and Desiree Moon. Photo take by Maggie Mathis.

"Snow Day" is the photo theme for December. 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 December is October 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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