

A Publication of New Hope Telephone Cooperative

The

# Communicator

Vol. 9, No. 7

July 2010



**NHTC employee  
serving our country**

Broadband: changing how we live



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

Vol. 9, No. 7 July 2010

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*On the cover:*

*Linda and Gordon Solomon of New Hope decorate their front porch for Independence Day.*

## Manager's Comments

# Our country is great because of its tradition of service to our fellow man



As everyone gets ready for cook-outs and fireworks to celebrate the Fourth of July, we should pause to ask ourselves, "How did America, in

such a short time from its founding, grow to be the strongest country on Earth?" I believe the answer is found in one word: service.

Looking back through history you will see that our greatest moments have been when our citizens focused on serving others. Our founding fathers believed we should be free to govern ourselves as a people, and they drafted the Declaration of Independence. Our willingness to serve our fellow man brought us victory in the first global conflict. It pulled us out of the Great Depression. It helped us win World War II.

That same sense of sacrifice is what led people in this very community to create a telephone company more than 50 years ago. They did the hard work of research and investigation. They formed a not-for-profit company — a cooperative — and pursued low-interest loans from the U.S. government. They called upon their friends and neighbors to pay

a membership fee in something they couldn't yet see (and something many people didn't even believe they needed).

The fruits of their efforts are obvious today. The communities of New Hope, Owens Cross Roads and Grant have enjoyed reliable phone service for many decades — years before the service would have come otherwise. Without the willingness of yesterday's leaders to serve their communities and form this cooperative, it would have been a long time before the big phone companies would have found it profitable to serve our rural areas.

And look where that has brought us. Because of those early sacrifices, our communities have more than basic telephone service. We have cable TV and high-speed broadband Internet. Best of all, we are building a fiber-to-the-home network that, when complete, will provide you with better service than that found in many major cities.

Yes, we Americans are at our best when we are serving others. And a great example of that concept in action is your New Hope Telephone Cooperative.▲

**Tom Wing**

*General Manager,  
New Hope Telephone Cooperative*

## The OCR Fire Department needs your help!

Please go to **[www.e-one.com](http://www.e-one.com)** and place your vote for the OCR fire department to win a new fire engine! The department that receives the most online votes will win an ES Commercial Pumper Truck. Voting ends August 27. **You can only vote once per email address, so ask your friends and family to vote, too!**



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# Capital Credit checks only valid for 90 days

The NHTC Board of Directors voted to return a portion of the company's equity back to its members in the form capital credit checks. These refunds are for all active members of the cooperative. The refund represents one percent of the total capital credits each member has accumulated to date, minus any refunds that have already been given. Checks were mailed to members in May and most have already been cashed.

Capital Credit checks are only valid for 90 days. After 90 days have passed, the checks expire and must be re-printed and reissued. Replacement checks can be costly and time-consuming for your cooperative. By cashing or depositing your check promptly, you can help eliminate this unnecessary expense.

Please help NHTC keep costs low and returns for members high by cashing or depositing your check today.

## OCR Yard Beautification Award goes to Kathleen Cooper

Each year, members of Owens Cross Roads Homemaker's Club select a home or business in the community for their Yard Beautification Award.

The organization makes their selection for the award based on curb appeal, maintenance and overall beauty.

Kathleen Cooper's home on Albert Mann Road in OCR was chosen as this year's recipient. She was presented with a potted plant by club members Debbie Maples and Linda Hill.



Debbie Maples and Linda Hill, both of the OCR Homemakers Club, with Kathleen Cooper.

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*This Fourth of July, one American soldier and his family help us all...*

# *Let Freedom Ring*

**T**his summer, our country will once again unite as one to celebrate our national Independence Day. Backyards in every city and town will be filled with the sounds of families laughing and children playing. Dads will fire up the family grill and the wonderful aromas will fill the air.

It is a day unlike any other; it is our day to celebrate freedom.

Because freedom is not free, there will also be backyards and kitchens across our great land where moms and dads are not there. Thousands of U.S. soldiers will not be home to celebrate our freedom, because they are deployed to places most of us will never see. They are fighting for each and every one of us, giving everything they have, sometimes their very lives, so we can all be free.

As our country celebrates Independence Day, NHTC wishes to express how proud we are to call one of our nation's active-duty servicemen our own.

Staff Sgt. Daniel Martin, fiber leader at NHTC, serves as a Non-Commissioned Officer on a modular

contracting team in Afghanistan. He is part of the 1960th Contingency Contracting Team based out of Huntsville's Army National Guard.

Martin is the son of Doyle and Sylvia Martin of Grant. He has an older brother, Michael, and a twin brother, Nathan.

Martin and his wife, Marla, a first-grade teacher at DAR elementary school, have two daughters, Erin and Avery.

This is the second time Martin has been deployed for active duty. He was in Iraq for one year when daughter Erin, now 7, was just 18 months old. Marla says she reminds Erin and two-year-old Avery that daddy is gone to work and will be back soon. She also has a book her daughters like her to read to them about military daddies who go to work.

"Since I am a schoolteacher, I am off this summer," Marla says, "so I plan to keep the girls busy with things such as swimming lessons and other fun things. Erin is starting to do gymnastics, as well."

Both girls have been making cards and coloring pictures to put inside care packages they send to their dad. They

also put in his favorite snacks, and Marla includes new photos of the girls.

Martin and his family communicate every day, either through email or a phone call. "We try to do Skype occasionally and the children enjoy seeing their dad on the computer," Marla says. "The time difference poses a problem since they are nine hours ahead of us." (Skype is a software application that allows users to talk and video conference over the Internet.)

Aside from his official job duties and responsibilities in Afghanistan, Martin and some of his fellow soldiers do occasionally get to have some good, old-fashioned American fun.

On Memorial Day, the soldiers held their own version of the Cotton Row Run with the help of members from the Huntsville Track Club.

Despite the blazing 120-degree temperature, the soldiers donned t-shirts and race numbers provided by Suzanne Taylor, co-race director of Huntsville's Cotton Row Run, and ran the 6.2 miles in the sand and dust of the desert.

Taylor also provided awards and prizes for soldiers who ran the race



around the same time that it was being run in Huntsville.

When he is home, Martin spends his leisure time playing basketball, hunting, and fishing. While running in the hot desert may not sound like as much fun as his usual hobbies, the soldiers, including Martin, enjoyed the little piece of home it gave them.

While he is away, Marla says her family, as well as Daniel's, is extremely supportive and very present in their lives. "My parents live right next door and it is very comforting to be able to walk over and visit anytime," she says. "Our siblings and friends have also been tremendously supportive and helpful."

"Many of the employees at NHTC have offered their help if I need anything," says Marla. "I have been in contact with a few employees that have helped me with various things.

I appreciate that very much."

Marla says her family is planning a vacation to the Bahamas when her husband gets home. She says they are already making plans and looking forward to it.

Marla adds, "I am thankful for the soldiers who are serving our country, and I look forward to when they are all home with their families."

Everyone at NHTC could not agree more. "We are extremely proud of Daniel and his family," says Misty Williams, Marketing Director for NHTC. "They are examples to everyone of what true sacrifice and grace are. We look forward to his safe return soon." ▲



Daniel Martin with his wife Marla and their two children Avery (left) and Erin. Martin works for New Hope Telephone Cooperative where he was recently promoted to Fiber Leader. He is also a Staff Sgt. in the U.S. Army National Guard. Martin is currently deployed overseas in Afghanistan where he works with a modular contracting team.

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# THE POWER OF BROADBAND



## The economic benefits of high-speed Internet access

For businesses, broadband means delivering product information at the blink of an eye. It provides a way to link remote offices through connections that are as fast and reliable as being in the same building. Broadband can help small business owners compete, equipping them to access customers and information just like large corporations.

### Powering our economy

Indeed, a broadband network can be a powerful economic driver. From a consumer perspective, broadband helps families decide to live in rural areas, where they will buy or build homes, purchase local services and pay into the local tax base. From a business perspective, broadband enables many types of companies to enjoy the lower operating costs of smaller communities, while reaching a wide market.

For **Annette Chandler** of **New Hope Pharmacy**, broadband helps her serve her customers quickly and reliably. “We instantly submit your insurance claim while we are filling your prescriptions,” she says.

Not only is each prescription processed faster, several claims can be filed at one time. This means the staff of New Hope Pharmacy can handle a larger volume of customers, keeping tax dollars circulating in the local economy while providing an important community service.

Broadband helps make the task of ordering inventory more efficient for **Piggly Wiggly** of New Hope. Store manager **Danny McAllister** says ads are also planned and downloaded across the broadband network, and customers are served quickly with credit and debit card transactions handled across high-speed connections.

Consumer safety is another area where broadband proves its worth. “We now get recalls instantly,” McAllister says. “As soon as a recall is issued, we receive computer notification and have the item off the shelf in minutes. That really helps us protect consumers.”

“Adults are getting their GEDs, which makes them more marketable to employers and helps them earn higher wages,” explains **Rachel Olsen** of **The CARE Center**. A broadband connection at the center helps adults study for the exam. Plus,

In the 1930’s, something began happening that would impact American life for decades to come. As rural electric cooperatives were formed across the country, life-changing power was made available to those who chose to live and do business outside the big cities. Affordable, reliable electricity, with its labor-saving convenience, at last became available to farms and small towns — and rural America would never be the same.

A very similar story is taking shape today. This time, however, the life-changing infrastructure is not the power to operate refrigerators, light bulbs, grinders and saws. Today it is all about the ability to send large amounts of information over great distances at blinding speeds.

It is called broadband, and it is the infrastructure of the future.

### A world connected

Broadband is sometimes called high-speed Internet. But it is so much more than Internet access. Over the high capacity of a broadband network, families can have a video conversation with loved ones who live far away. They can remotely monitor their homes through video surveillance, or control their thermostat and lights from any computer in the world.

With a broadband connection, digital television programming becomes a reality. And each member of the family can be involved in a different task (talking on the phone, watching television, downloading songs and movies) all at the same time.



clients are encouraged to work online from their homes or public libraries to improve their reading skills, increase their knowledge base and thereby increase their employment skills.

Public services also benefit from broadband connectivity. "The Internet has greatly improved our court operations," says **Barbara Webster** at **Owens Cross Roads Town Hall**. "Things are faster and more accurate." Sales tax payments are also received over the network now, bringing more convenience to businesses in OCR while increasing the speed and reducing the costs of tax collections for the town.

## The reality of fiber

Broadband service is available to every member of New Hope Telephone Cooperative. As the need for more bandwidth increases, the company is building a new fiber network that will eventually make a fiber-to-the-home connection

available to every home and business in the service area.

"This is great news for our region," says Tom Wing, NHTC General Manager. "This means business can stay in New Hope, Owens Cross Roads and Grant and remain competitive. Families can choose to stay in or even move to these communities and know that their children will have the best access to the Internet they will find anywhere.

"With a fiber-to-the-home network, you don't have to sacrifice convenient services to enjoy small-town living," he continues. "It's all here: voice, Internet and television service that is as good – and oftentimes better – than what is available in the big cities."



Annette Chandler of New Hope Pharmacy hands Arnold Lewis his prescriptions. She relies on her broadband connection to file insurance claims immediately and process prescriptions faster.

Broadband service delivered over fiber is not only good for the community, but is a sound decision for the cooperative and its members. "I believe fiber will be the key to survival for many cooperatives and independent telephone companies across America," Wing says. "It not only helps us compete, but actually gives us a competitive advantage over other service providers.

"That's the power of fiber," he adds. "It's leveling the playing field for small communities." ▲

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# Enlightning Facts

**Summer is the peak season for lightning... are you prepared? Lightning can be fatal, and awareness is your best defense against a lightning strike.**

**Test your lightning knowledge and see just how bright you are when it comes to this dangerous natural phenomenon.**

## TRUE OR FALSE?

➤ *Lightning is hazardous, but not as threatening as most other weather-related dangers.*

**FALSE.** Lightning is the second most perilous weather condition in the United States. Killing more than hurricanes and tornadoes per year on average, lightning comes second only to floods. According to the National Weather Service, you have a 1 in 6,250 chance of being struck by lightning in your lifetime and a 1 in 625 chance of being affected by someone being struck by lightning.

➤ *If you are not the tallest object in the area, you are safe from lightning.*

**FALSE.** Lightning is strangely unpredictable. Though it does usually strike whatever is closest to an electrically charged cloud, it often chooses its point of discharge randomly.

➤ *About 100 people die from being hit by lightning in the U.S. annually.*

**TRUE,** and many of those are from our geological area. Alabama ranks in the top ten states with the most lightning-related fatalities in the past decade.

➤ *Half of those struck by lightning survive.*

**FALSE.** The survival rate of lightning strike victims is a surprising 90%, but lasting effects such as neurological damage and hearing loss are very common.

➤ *If you are indoors, you are safe from lightning.*

**FALSE.** Although a substantial building with insulation is the safest place to be during a thunderstorm, electrical charge from a lightning strike can still travel through pipes and wires and cause you harm. **Wired telephones pose the greatest threat to people seeking shelter indoors.** Wireless telephones are harmless, but talking on a corded phone during a storm is extremely dangerous.

➤ *You should not take a shower, wash clothes or use any water during a thunderstorm.*

**TRUE.** Lightning can travel through water pipes, even those that are made of plastic or run underground.

➤ *If you are stuck outside during a thunderstorm, you should lay flat on the ground to avoid being struck by lightning.*

**FALSE.** Most people think the closer to the ground you are, the safer you will be from lightning, but this is simply not true. Lightning has been known to travel through the ground itself. By lying flat, you are putting yourself at risk of shock from nearby lightning. Instead, squat with your feet together and ears covered to prevent hearing loss from loud thunder. This position is known as the "lightning crouch."

➤ *Lightning never strikes the same place twice.*



**COMPLETELY FALSE.** The Empire State Building is struck an average of 25 times a year. Even people have reportedly been hit more than once. Ray Sullivan, a U.S. Park Service Ranger from Virginia, was said to have been struck seven times between 1942 and 1976. He survived all seven strikes.

➤ *If you are unable to reach a safe building in the event of a thunderstorm, you should seek shelter in your car. The vehicle's rubber tires will keep lightning from harming you.*

**TRUE AND FALSE.** Aside from an insulated building, a car is the safest place to hide from a lightning strike. However, it is not the rubber tires that provide protection. If your car is hit by lightning, the electrical shock will travel along the outside of the car's metal frame, avoiding the passengers inside. The tires would have to be made of solid rubber about one mile thick to keep an electrical charge from passing through them.

Knowing what to do in the event of a thunder storm can save your life. By moving to a safe area, taking proper safety precautions and waiting at least 30 minutes after the last sign of lightning to resume activity, you greatly reduce your risk of being struck by one of nature's deadliest phenomena.

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## Community Events

### July

#### Need "Then and Now" Photos

The New Hope United Methodist Church is looking for old pictures of New Hope for a calendar entitled "Then and Now." If you have photos that could be copied and used in the calendar, please contact Nettie Elwell at 256-533-5226 or Norma Mann at 256-723-8322.

#### New Hope City Park 'Music in the Park' Schedule

Bring your lawn chairs and come out to enjoy free music from 6 to 8 p.m. each Tuesday night throughout the summer. The following acts will perform in July:

**July 6** ..... Margaret Hill & Blake & Angie Koger,  
Patty Scivally and Ken Coffey

**July 13** ..... Dennis Martin with Double Barrel

**July 20** ..... New Hope Senior Center Band & Singers

**July 27** ..... New Hope Church of God  
Rick Angel with By Grace

#### New Hope Farmers Market

Serve your family some delicious local produce from the Farmer's Market across from New Hope City Hall. Open every Saturday in July • 8 - 11 a.m. Call Diane Phillips, 256-679-9688.

### July 3

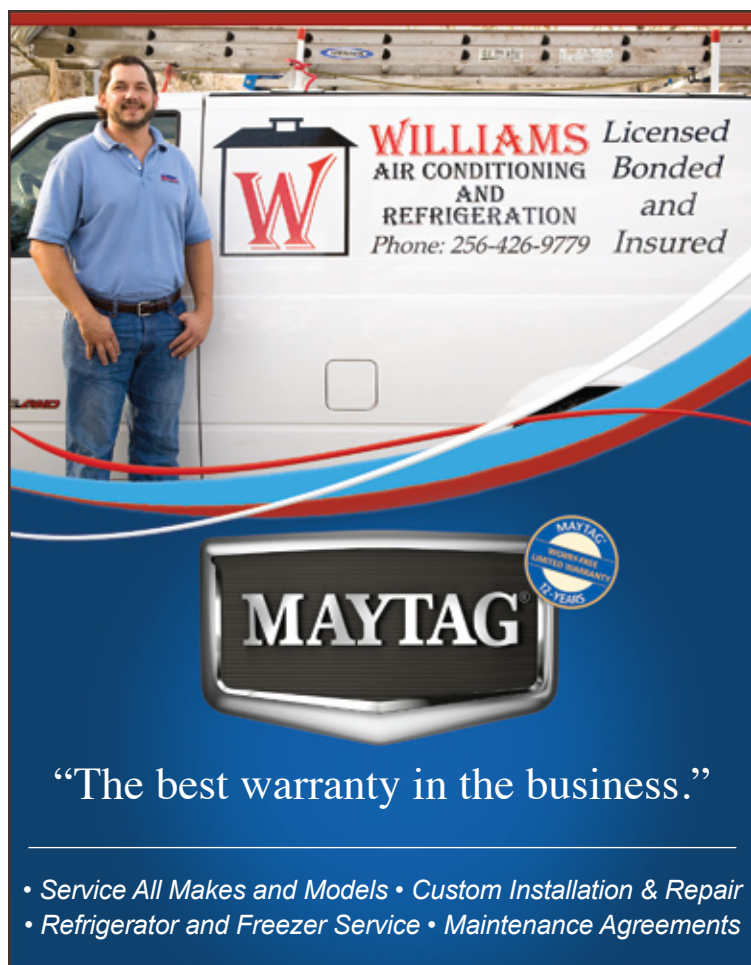
#### Independence Day Celebration

Join us at Grant Town Park from 2 to 9 p.m. for our annual celebration. There will be a car show, motorcycle show, watermelon eating contest, music, kids inflatables, a Fly-By and much more. The evening ends with a great fireworks display. This event is sponsored by Grant Chamber of Commerce, Grant Fire Dept. and Grant City Hall. For more information contact André Thomas at 256-728-3369 or Faye Frazier at 256-728-3250.

### August 6 & 7

#### New Hope UMC Dinner Theater

Participants are needed for performing and set construction. For more information contact, Diane Phillips at 256-679-9688 or email [dianecphillips@msn.com](mailto:dianecphillips@msn.com)



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## ✝ Inspiration Corner

Mr. Mitchell Brown delivered New Hope High School's 2010 commencement speech, and the following excerpt, edited for space, is quite fitting for our July 4th celebration:

"George Washington is arguably our most respected and revered President. Thomas Jefferson described him as the only indispensable figure in the American Revolution. We know him as the greatest hero of that War, and yet he lost far more battles than he won! But, he is remembered as the great deliverer of our freedom. In spite of all the political rhetoric and revisionist history that you are certain to encounter, do remember this. You live in the greatest land on God's green earth, and you should never feel compelled to apologize or cower at the prospect of stating boldly, 'I am proud to be an American.' Some celebrate

and point to diversity as the source of our American greatness. I agree that diversity serves a great purpose in holding unbridled power in check, but I say to you it is not our diversity that makes us great. I believe what makes America great is a diverse people coming together for a great common cause."

What was that "great common cause" that can be found all through the Bible? FREEDOM! As you celebrate the nation's independence, please pray our nation's growing diversity dissolves into unity. Wave the flag, sing the songs, and share with friends a True Freedom that no man can ever take. You should find that Freedom in a church near you.



*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*



On July 4, 1776 a few brave men declared independence from Great Britain and America was born.

I hope you all had a wonderful Fourth of July weekend as we celebrated the birth of this great nation.

The next legislative session will be here before we know it and we will have a lot of important decisions to make to make — decisions that will affect everyone in this state. One of our biggest obstacles will be funding. As a member of the budget-setting Education Appropriations Committee, I know how difficult it can be to stretch our dollars to make sure our children receive the best education possible.

I will keep working to ensure that we provide our students with the resources and teachers they need to succeed. And I will continue to look out for the interests of the schools in District 22.

With eight high schools and seven elementary schools in our district, there are many important projects that need funding.

As we are in the midst of the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression, it is difficult to get money in Montgomery. I am fortunate to have the experience and be in a position where I can be sure that Jackson and Madison County schools get their fair share. For instance, last year I was able to appropriate \$66,000 for New Hope School to upgrade their elementary's HVAC system and gymnasium.

I also want to take the time to thank everyone for their support in the primary election last month. I will continue to work hard and represent you to the best of my ability in Montgomery. ▲

## PASTOR'S NOTES

*BY LARRY BISHOP, PASTOR  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
NEW HOPE*



While looking for material to teach a Bible class I rediscovered the following puzzle. I've had it for so long I'm not sure where or how I obtained it. All I remember is that it really challenged me. You on the other hand will probably find it rather easy. Here is the challenge. There are names of 16 books of the Bible hidden in the paragraph below. See how many you can find! A preacher found 15 books in 20 minutes; it took him three weeks to find the 16th one! Have fun!

### Books of the Bible

I once made a remark about the hidden books in the Bible. It was, a lulu, kept people looking so hard for facts,

and for others it was a revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books were not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of our readers.

To others it was a real job. We want it to be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes, there will be some really easy ones to spot. Others may require judges to help find them. I will quickly admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them, and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. See how well you can compete. Relax now, for there really are sixteen names of books of the Bible in this paragraph. Your time starts right now!

See you in Church Sunday!



### SHRIMP AND RICE SALAD

- 1 cup long grain rice
- 1/4 cup white wine vinegar
- 1/4 cup oil
- 2 tsp. dried dill weed
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 1 Tbsp. mustard
- 1/4 cup chopped green onions
- 1/2 lb. cooked shrimp, shelled and deveined, thawed if frozen
- 1/2 lb. sugar snap peas, blanched

Cook rice as directed on package. Meanwhile, combine vinegar, oil, dill weed, salt, pepper, and mustard and mix well. Pour 2 Tbsp. of this dressing over the hot rice and toss gently. Cover rice and refrigerate 1 hour or until cold. In medium bowl, combine rice, green onions, shrimp, pea pods and remaining dressing; toss gently to combine. Place onto serving plates and squeeze some fresh lemon juice over each salad. Serve immediately.

### CHICKEN MELON SALAD

- 1 cup strawberry yogurt
- 1/3 cup mayonnaise
- 4 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
- 2 cups gemelli pasta
- 1 ripe cantaloupe, cut into 1" pieces
- salt & pepper to taste

In large bowl, combine mayonnaise and yogurt and blend well. Refrigerate while preparing rest of salad. Bake chicken breasts at 375° for 20-30 minutes if thawed and 60-70 minutes if frozen, until thoroughly cooked. Let cool until cool enough to

## From the Community

handle. Cut chicken into 1" pieces, then add to salad dressing. Cook pasta as directed on package. Drain, rinse briefly with warm water, then drain thoroughly. Stir cooked and drained pasta into mayonnaise/yogurt mixture. Gently stir cantaloupe into the salad. Chill 1-3 hours until cold or serve immediately.

### BUTTER BEAN SALAD

- 3 Tbsp. apple cider vinegar
- 5 Tbsp. olive oil
- 1/4 tsp. pepper
- 3 Tbsp. chopped fresh parsley
- 2 (15 oz.) cans butter beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 1 oz. can shoepeg corn, drained
- 14.5 oz. can zesty chili diced tomatoes, drained
- 1 small red onion, chopped

In large bowl, combine vinegar, olive oil, salt, pepper, and parsley and mix well with wire whisk. Add remaining ingredients and toss to coat. Cover and chill 2 hours, or serve immediately.



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# God Bless America



PFC David Olival (left) and his brother Jacob Olival are members of the U.S. Army. They are the grandsons of Bruno & Dorothy Procopio of New Hope. David is currently in Iraq and Jacob is serving in Afghanistan.



Janice Franks and Linda Hannah with their nephew David Pence. Photo submitted by Janice Franks.



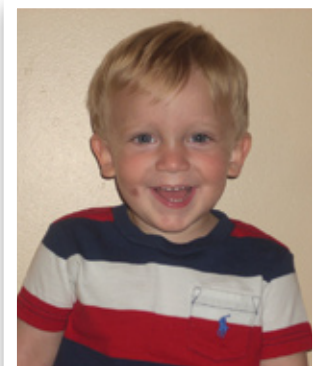
Jacob and Jackson Stapler of New Hope. Picture taken by their mom, Mandy Stapler.



Happy Independence Day, America! Photo sent by Joanie Woody.



Annie Grace Ogle. Photo taken by her mom, Tammy Ogle of New Hope.



2-year-old Matthew Franks. Photo submitted by mom, Jennifer.

"Football Fever" is the photo theme for September. Send pictures matching the photo theme to: NHTC • Attn.: Communicator Photos • P.O. Box 452 • New Hope, Alabama 35760. You may prefer to e-mail your photo to [communicator@nehp.net](mailto:communicator@nehp.net). Follow these guidelines for publication: (1) Photos must match theme. (2) **Photos must be high resolution.** The resolution offered by some printers is not high enough for publication. (3) Do not write on the back of photo. Include names of persons in photo, as well as, photographer, address and phone number on paper taped to back. (4) Include a self-addressed stamped envelope if you would like your photo returned. (5) **The Deadline**

**for September is July 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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