

A Publication of New Hope Telephone Cooperative

The

# Communicator

Vol. 9, No. 3

March 2010

**A PIECE OF BUTLER MILL  
LIVES ON IN TENNESSEE**

**GRANT CHAMBER SUPPORTS  
LOCAL BUSINESSES AND COMMUNITY**



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. 3 March 2010

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**New Hope Telephone Cooperative**  
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*On the cover:*

*Spring is in the air. Brandon Adair of Woodville submitted this photograph of Spring Blossoms.*

## Manager's Comments

# Change in capital credit refund policy was necessary for future of your NHTC



When a company has been in business as long as New Hope Telephone Cooperative, it sees plenty of changes. NHTC has been around more than five decades, and the market conditions have shifted dramatically since the day the founders ran the first strand of copper here.

Thanks to your cooperative's leadership, NHTC has adapted well to the changes in technology. As you know, we are working hard to complete our fiber network that will meet growing demands, deliver services more efficiently and position this region to handle growth in population and demand for technology services. You won't have to settle for small-town technology just because you choose not to live in the big city.

Just like the need to keep up with technology, on Page 4 of this issue you will read about a policy change that was necessary to protect the sustainability of your cooperative. This change takes a very important step toward fixing the problems being caused today by a policy that began in 1977.

Thirty-three years ago, life was a lot different here in Northeast Alabama. Gas was less than 70¢ per gallon, the Hampton Cove area was farmland, and there was no such thing as the Internet. At that time, NHTC approved a policy to refund 66.6% of a disconnecting member's capital credits immediately after their account had been inactive for one year. Even though no other cooperatively owned utility (telephone or electric) has

such a policy, I am sure it seemed like a good idea at the time for this area.

Fast forward to the 21st century, and that policy has caused some challenges for your cooperative. In fact, it has resulted in hundreds of thousands of dollars being paid out in lump sums each year to members who disconnect. You can imagine what kind of challenge that presents as we balance such a large outflow of cash with the normal challenges of operating a modern business.

In a day when satellite TV service, cell phones and even Internet connections all compete for the core services NHTC provides, it is in the collective best interest of all members for their cooperative to maintain a strong financial foundation. As with all cooperatives, capital credits help finance NHTC's daily operations. Monthly cash flow, and the very stability of the company, depends on the availability of money to operate trucks, buy materials to provide your service, pay for cable channel contracts, make payroll, pay the light bill, etc.

Remember, NHTC is a not-for-profit company created to provide service where none existed. It is owned by all our members, collectively. The new policy fixes an issue that in today's age could do unbelievable economic harm to every member. It will help avoid a crippling problem for your cooperative, which has long served these communities.

Read Page 4, and I believe most members will agree this policy will help protect the future of your cooperative.▲

**Tom Wing**

*General Manager,*

*New Hope Telephone Cooperative*

# “Why Do I Use This Photo in My Ads?”

## *And what you should know about it...*

Dear Friend,

“I know you.” That’s what people usually say when they meet me in town. Then they say, “You’re Dr. Mike. I’ve seen your ad with that picture of you and those two cute little kids.” Well, perhaps I should tell you a little more about that photo, and why I use it in my ads. Let’s start with me, 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 1st 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 this 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 him with their carpal tunnel syndrome problems. Also they come to him 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)

“I did have a lot of leg pain due to a pinched nerve. Not any more 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 March 31, 2010, you will receive my entire new patient exam for \$27. That’s with x-rays... the whole ball of wax.* And, further care is very affordable. You see, I’m not trying to seduce you to come see me with this low start up fee, then to only make it up with high fees after that. Further care is very important to consider when making your choice of doctor. High costs can add up very quickly.

**Great care at a great fee...** Please, I hope that there’s no misunderstanding about quality of care just because I have a lower exam fee. You’ll get great care at a great fee. My qualifications... I’m a 1991 graduate of Life University. I’m certified by the National Boards as well as the states of Alabama and Tennessee. I’ve practiced in Marshall County for 16 years after a one-year associateship in Huntsville. I just have that low exam fee to help more people who need care. Results may vary in individual cases.

My assistant is Sandy and she is a really great person. Our office is both friendly and warm and we try our best to make you feel at home. We have a wonderful service, at an exceptional fee. Our office is called **ELLIS CHIROPRACTIC CENTER** and it is at 4664 Main Street in Grant. Our number is **256-728-2044**. Call Sandy or me today for an appointment. We can help you. Thank you.

- Michael Ellis, D.C.

*P.S. When accompanied by the first, I am also offering the second family member this same examination for only \$10.*

*P.P.S. Can you imagine not having to wait at a doctor’s office? Well, your time is as valuable as mine. That’s why we have a no-wait policy. You will be seen within minutes of your appointment.*

# NHTC Board approves changes to Capital Credit Policy

The NHTC Board of Directors recently approved changes to the Advanced Patronage Capital Credit Refund policy. These changes will allow the cooperative to pay Advanced Patronage Capital Credit refunds to former members over a period of seven years instead of the previous policy of paying former members in a lump sum.

Advanced patronage capital credit refunds are paid out to deceased member estates and members who have been disconnected for one year. It is the member's responsibility to contact the business office and complete all necessary paperwork.

NHTC's updated Advanced Patronage Capital Credit policy states the following:

## **Members October 1952 – December 31, 2009**

- 1/3 of capital is forfeited to NHTC for early refund
- 2/3 of capital is refunded to former NHTC member – to be paid out over 7 years, with no interest

## **Members January 1, 2010 Forward**

Beginning January 1, 2010 the

patronage capital accounts of all new members shall receive:

- 2/3 of capital is forfeited to NHTC for early refund
- 1/3 of capital is refunded to former NHTC member – to be paid over 7 years, with no interest

The above policy shall apply to a former new member leaving voluntary, being disconnected for non-payment or due to the death of a new member.

## **Joint Membership**

If one joint member desires to terminate his/her membership and the other member wants to continue service, the existing membership shall be terminated for the former member and a new membership opened for the remaining member. The patronage capital account will be divided in half. The member who terminates membership will be entitled to the patronage capital account based on policies as determined by the board. The patronage capital of the remaining member will be transferred to the new membership and subject to the policies of the board. The remaining member and former member must sign forms with respect to their joint membership; or if they

are divorced, their agreement in writing, or a certified decree of divorce will suffice, if the decree included provisions which apply to the patronage capital account, either directly or indirectly.

## **Members Disconnected for Non-Payment**

Effective January 1, 2010 – A member who is disconnected twice within a calendar year will have their membership terminated. If the former member applies to have their service reinstated, they will be considered new members and subject to the terms and conditions of the above provision with respect to their capital credit account for new members. They will be charged the connect charges for new members.

The full policy is located on NHTC's website, [www.nehp.net](http://www.nehp.net), under Important NHTC Documents.

*\*\*Members rights to the patronage capital account shall not be vested, and the board retains the right to further amend these policies at any time and/or create new categories of memberships based on the financial condition of New Hope Telephone Cooperative.*

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# Returned check, reconnect fees increasing

Effective April 1, 2010, New Hope Telephone Cooperative will increase the fee for checks returned for non-sufficient funds (NSF) to \$35. This charge along with your phone bill must be paid in full within 10 days to maintain service. If two NSF checks are returned within a six month period, future payments will only be accepted when made with cash or by money order.

When service is disconnected for non-payment, NHTC will charge a reconnection fee to reinstate service. The fee for telephone service is \$25. For DSL service,

the fee is \$25 and the reconnect fee for cable television service is \$40. These fees go into effect on April 1, 2010. Any unpaid balance must be paid in addition to the reconnect fee.

Please remember that all payments must be received in NHTC's office no later than the 20th of each month to avoid late fees or final notices. Payments that are not received by the last day of the month could result in an interruption in service and reconnect fees to have service restored.▲



## IP numbers will change for some DSL subscribers

Just over 600 New Hope Telephone Cooperative DSL (Digital Line Subscriber) customers whose IP numbers begin with 65, 204 or 208 will receive a new IP number by the end of March.

An IP (Internet Protocol) number is a unique number that computers use to identify and communicate with each other over the Internet. Every computer and router must have their own unique address.

Because NHTC leased these numbers, there was a third party involved, sometimes slowing down DSL service. NHTC has purchased our own IP numbers and now provide those numbers to our customers, eliminating a third party.

NHTC Technical Support will notify customers whose IP number will change. If you know your IP number begins with 65, 204 or 208 you may call Technical Support at (256) 723-8940.

## CUSTOMER APPRECIATION DAY

**New Hope Telephone Cooperative**

**will hold their annual**

**Customer Appreciation Day**

**on Friday, March 19th**

**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.

Be sure to register for door prizes to be given away throughout the day!



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# Butler Mill

## A landmark for 125 years

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Butler Mill was a landmark in this area for more than 125 years. And although many residents are familiar with the former mill and the covered bridge on Butler Road that led to it, most probably do not realize how far into history its story began.

In 1824 local residents William Burns and William W. Pruitt formed a partnership and built a grist mill on the Paint Rock River on land ceded by the Cherokee Indians to the U.S. government. After ten years, Burns and Pruitt sold Pruitt's Mill to David Cobb and his two sons, W. R.W. and Bryant Cobb. The Cobbs expanded operation of the mill to grind corn and wheat into meal and flour and renamed it Cobb's Mill.

At the time, the Paint Rock River was bustling with commercial traffic. Keel boats, flat-boats, and skiffs floated down the river from Cobb's Mill and other merchants to the Tennessee River, where products were loaded onto larger crafts to ship to New Orleans.

For the next 42 years Cobb's Mill stayed in the Cobb family and operated successfully despite difficulties presented during the Civil War and Reconstruction.

On October 2, 1882, the Cobb family sold Cobb's Mill to James E. and George W. Butler of New Hope who also owned Butler Brothers General Store.

The Butlers rebuilt and expanded Cobb's Mill, renaming it Butler Mill. After running the mill successfully for 15 years, the Butlers installed a horizontal stone buhr mill built by the R. D. Cote Company of Newnan, Georgia, using 2,000 lb. millstones from the Esopus granite quarries in New York.

Just upstream from Butler Mill, a wooden dam stretched from bank to bank of the Paint Rock River. The dam diverted water to the mill-side of the river into a race, or chute that fed a water wheel turbine that powered the mill, turning the millstones that ground the wheat and flour.

In 1898, George W. Butler died and left his share of what was known as the Butler Grist Mill Company to his wife and children. James E. Butler continued to operate the mill until his death in 1913. After Butler's death, Butler Mill was divided among the Butler heirs. Some of the noted millers who ran the operation for the Butlers between 1898 and 1915 were M.M. Downey, William B. Gross, Robert Whitaker, George W. Anderson, David Jones, and Richard H. "Dick" Jones, known to local children as simply, "Uncle Dick."

In 1916, the Butler heirs sold the mill to Frank Bevil and Dick Jones. The Butler Mill area was a local favorite fishing and camping spot, and Bevil and Jones ran an organized campground and fishing area for local residents, friends and family.

In 1922 Bevil and Jones became indebted to a man named Joseph W. Woody. Butler Mill was mortgaged on the condition that if the debt was not paid before it was due, Woody would take possession of the property. Bevil and Jones were unable to satisfy the mortgage, and Woody held the title to Butler Mill until his death in 1939. Upon his death, the executors of his estate conveyed the title to Butler Mill back to Bevil and 42

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The Butler Mill millstones are encased inside the drum-shaped machinery at Falls Mill. A 2,000 lb. notched runner stone turns on top of a 1,000 lb. stationary bedstone. Grain is fed and ground between the millstones and collected in the box below.





others who held legal interest in the mill.

On April 11, 1939, a tornado touched down and destroyed Butler Mill, leaving only the stone foundation. Also destroyed was the nearby covered bridge that stretched across Paint Rock River joining Madison and Marshall Counties.

Shortly after, Frank Bevil sold the Butler Mill tract to Robert Clay. In 1940 Clay built a new mill on the original foundation and operated a profitable business throughout World War II and the early postwar era. But by the 1950's modern food processing methods diminished the importance of the grist mill, forcing Clay to close his establishment.

Around the same time Clay closed Butler Mill, a flood destroyed most of the mill structure and washed the 2,000 pound millstones into the Paint Rock River. All the wooden parts to Butler Mill were lost in the flood, but the stones themselves were recovered.

In 1969, Col. W.W. Crum, owner of Falls Mill in Franklin County, Tenn., bought the Butler Mill millstones from Robert Clay, to utilize in his mill. Falls Mill shipped the millstones back to the R. D. Cole Company, who built the new wooden hoop, curbing, shoe, damsel, stand, hopper, and frame for the stones according to their traditional patterns.

Falls Mill is still in operation today and is owned by John and Jane Lovett. Falls Mill still uses the millstones from Butler Mill to produce a variety of stone-ground meal products, many of which are shipped to

restaurants and specialty stores. One of those restaurants is Old Vienna in New Hope. Owner Teresa Carpenter uses Falls Mill products in many recipes in the restaurant and has small packages of Falls Mill corn meal and other products for customers who want to use them in their own kitchens. See this month's Recipes Page for Carpenter's recipes that use Falls Mill products.▲



In 1969, the millstones from historic Butler Mill in Madison County were sold to Falls Mill in Franklin County, Tenn. The stones are still in use at Falls Mill today, grinding 2,000 - 3,000 lbs. of corn per week.



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# Small chamber makes *BIG* Differ

When Shirley Baggett and her husband Joe were contemplating a move from the Atlanta suburbs to Alabama in 2001, a welcoming voice at the Grant Chamber of Commerce helped them find what would become their new hometown.

The Baggetts were set on Guntersville as their new hometown, but their realtor had one house on Grant Mountain she wanted to show them. They instantly loved the home.

“We had never heard of Grant, but when we came to see the house, it seemed like everywhere we went, people would throw up their hand and wave at us,” says Baggett. “That just doesn’t happen in Atlanta.”

Before returning to Georgia, Baggett called the Grant Chamber of Commerce and left her name and number on a recorded message. Within 48 hours, a woman with the Chamber called her

back. “I wish I had gotten her name,” says Baggett, “but this person was so nice, and so helpful. She answered all of my questions and really made a lasting impression on me. She described what a close-knit, friendly town Grant is.

“That phone call was a big factor in our decision to move to Grant,” she says. “We had no family here, but the town soon became our family.” Baggett, who works at Grant Shoe Outlet, has since been joined by her daughter, Paula Henderson, in Grant. Henderson is now the Chamber’s treasurer.

The Grant Chamber of Commerce was founded in 1999. Brenda Barnes, President and CEO of People’s State Bank, led the efforts. The original idea was to create an organization that would promote both the town and its businesses. Barnes and her friend Patty Ross began talking to other business people about the idea, and soon others joined in

their efforts.

“I met with my friend, attorney David Jones,” says Barnes. “He was instrumental in helping establish our by-laws and providing the information we needed to form the structure. The original board worked very hard. We started having fundraisers and advertising. Everyone was really involved, and it was very exciting. We met in some of the local restaurants and businesses until we were able to find a building,” she says.

Built in 1954, the building they chose was once used as a charity house for residents of Grant. The board which governed the use of the house was happy to see the Chamber move in. “The house was really in need of work,” says Barnes, “so everyone pitched in and used their own money to improve it.”

Since those early days, the chamber has grown to include 75 members. It





Chamber members (L to R): Lamar Pendergrass, Josh Barnes, Paula Henderson, Faye Frazier, Brenda Barnes, André Thomas and Brent Parker.

# ence

includes individuals and businesses in and around the Grant area. The organization's goal is to enhance tourism, support local government and businesses, and promote social, educational and cultural events for the citizens of Grant.

The Chamber meets each month at MiMi's Country Tea Room for lunch to discuss current issues. A popular event is the Chamber's Early Bird Breakfast. Each month, a different business owner sponsors the breakfast and hosts it in their place of business. "We don't really handle Chamber business at the breakfasts," says Paula Henderson. "It's really all about the members. We usually have two to three guest speakers and we give them a few minutes to talk about what's going on in their businesses," she says.

The event is always well-attended, with crowds including elected officials, business owners and townspeople. It is casual and fun, and there are always door

prizes donated from local businesses.

Ann Taylor, owner of Grant Shoe Outlet, recently hosted an Early Bird crowd of approximately 45 people. She cooked over 100 biscuits, three different gravies, piles of country ham, sausage and pork loin, and so many eggs that her helper, Shirley Baggett, lost count. Taylor says the event went over very well and she thinks everyone had a great time.

According to Henderson, the Early Bird Breakfast also serves as a wonderful promotional tool for new businesses who may not have a large advertising budget, and helps keep the citizens of Grant informed.

The Chamber works hard to encourage growth and promote the town of Grant. Helping with these efforts is local resident Sheila Barbuck. A member of the chamber for seven years, Barbuck is the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC)

chairman. When military families across the country are reassigned to this area, it is Barbuck's job to show them what Grant has to offer. Barbuck says Grant's convenient location, DAR school and Cathedral Caverns State Park are always topics of interest.

This year the Chamber will sponsor a celebration in honor of the Fourth of July. "The event will be Saturday, July 3rd from 2 until 9 p.m.," says André Thomas, event coordinator. "We will have games, food and craft vendors, and a finale fireworks show."

In the past, the Chamber has sponsored such events as Christmas parades, a golf tournament and a 'Shop in Grant' campaign. This year, the Chamber is planning several pancake breakfasts.

To learn more about the Grant Chamber of Commerce, visit the organization's Web site at [www.grantchamberofcommerce.com](http://www.grantchamberofcommerce.com). ▲



## Legislative Update

By Rep. Butch Taylor

Alabama House of Representatives, Dist. 22



We are staying very busy in the Alabama Legislature this month.

As I write this column, the Education Appropriations

Committee, of which I am a member, recently sent a bill to the House floor for consideration that will help rescue our state's failing PACT plan.

I believe it is our moral obligation to honor the promises made to the thousands of parents and grandparents who invested their hard-earned money into this state program to provide a college education for their children and grandchildren.

Also in the Education Appropriations Committee, we were able to kill dangerous legislation that would have allowed charter schools in our state. The bill failed the committee with a resounding 13-2 vote. Funding charter schools would have taken money away from existing public schools at a time when we are already facing massive layoffs and budget cuts.

On a local note, I am the sponsor of a bill that recently passed our committee in Madison County that will prohibit rock quarries from operating within a two-mile radius of an existing school.

The noisy operation and constant traffic caused by rock quarries near our schools would pose a terrible distraction for our students. This legislation will protect all existing Madison County Schools. The bill will reach the House floor very soon and I am expecting good things.

In the weeks to come I will continue to work hard for you in Montgomery. Feel free to visit me in Montgomery or call my office at (334) 242-7219. ▲

## PASTOR'S NOTES

BY LARRY BISHOP, PASTOR  
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH  
NEW HOPE

A small factory had to stop operations when an essential piece of machinery broke down. No one could get the machine operating. An outside expert was finally called.

The expert looked over the situation for a moment, then took a hammer and gently tapped the machine at a certain spot. It began running again immediately and continued to run as if nothing had ever been wrong.

When the expert submitted a bill for \$100.00 the plant supervisor hit the ceiling and demanded an itemized bill. The expert's itemized bill was as follows: "For hitting machine \$1.00. For knowing where to hit, \$99.00."

Many times our lives are like that piece of machinery. Our busy schedules sidetrack us and we need a little tap "in the right

place" to get us back on the track.

Character development is a lifelong process. God who created us (metaphorically speaking) uses files, chisels, and hammers to shape and conform us to His image.

The Lord laid down a principle that our heart is where our treasure is (Matthew 6:21). Treasures were in the form of costly fabrics—purple, fine twined linen, and costly metal. The Lord then gave a precaution concerning these things. He placed alongside these things the word moth, rust, and thieves. When accumulating earthly treasures, we must beware of that which rots, and that which rusts, and that which robs.

The Lord does not condemn all desire to accumulate treasure. He just redirects (gives us a little tap) and tells us to lay up for ourselves "treasures in heaven." That is done by giving our time, talent, and treasure to forward God's interests on the earth.

He does all this without sending a bill.

See you in church Sunday.

APRIL 30 & MAY 1, 2010

## Grant Founders Day

FRIDAY KICK-OFF • 5 P.M.

ALL DAY SATURDAY • 7 A.M. TO 10 P.M.

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## Community Events

### Monthly

#### Angel Food Ministry

Help cut grocery costs by participating in Angel Food ministry through New Hope United Methodist Church. Call (256) 723-4812 or go to [www.newhopeunitedmethodistchurch.org](http://www.newhopeunitedmethodistchurch.org) for more information on the program, dates, times, and menu. You may also order online at [www.angelfoodministries.com](http://www.angelfoodministries.com), and find menus and recipes along with other useful information.

### March

#### New Hope Library

Special events for March include:

3/04	Friends of the Library	6:00 p.m.
3/08	NH Inspirational Book Club	1:00 p.m.
3/09	Mix It Up: Life of a DJ	6:30 p.m.
3/11	Genealogy	7:00 p.m.

3/12	Sit-N-Knit	5:30 p.m.
3/13	Teen Tech Week Celebration	4:00 p.m.
3/19	Board to Death	5:30 p.m.
3/20	Movie Day: Old Dogs	
3/26	Movie Night: Twilight Saga: New Moon	

### March 11

#### Chamber Early Bird Breakfast

7:30 a.m. at Peoples State Bank in Grant.

### March 22

#### Community Forum

6:30 p.m. at Owens Cross Roads Town Hall. Southeast Madison County Coalition in conjunction with Partnership for a Drug Free Community will meet to discuss ways of improving our communities. This forum is open to the public.

### March 19 & 20

#### Dinner Theatre

Hosted by New Hope United Methodist Church. Call (256) 723-4812 for more information.

### March 27

#### Classic Car Show

Hosted by New Hope United Methodist Church. Call (256) 723-4812 for more information.

### April 5

#### New Hope Rec

Baseball and softball season begins. For game schedules visit their Web site at [www.newhoperec.org](http://www.newhoperec.org).

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Bryn Butler,  
Loan Officer

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## Students at New Hope School collect money to help earthquake victims

The earthquake that rocked the country of Haiti in January was one of the most devastating natural disasters in history. Students at New Hope Elementary and Middle School wanted to help the victims. The fourth and fifth graders sponsored a program called Hats for Haiti.

Every day for a one week period students could pay \$1 for the privilege of wearing a hat to school. At the end of the week \$911 was collected to donate to the American Red Cross. The money will be used to assist their efforts to help victims of the Haiti earthquake.



### Inspiration Corner

The early 1800's is known as the "Mountain Man Era". These men lived in the untamed wilderness of North America, collecting beaver pelts to supply the demand for beaver-skin hats in the eastern U.S. and Europe. The 1972 movie, Jeremiah Johnson, portrays the real-life mountain man of the 1840's, John Johnston, whom the Crow Indians had a bounty. In the movie, Jeremiah (Robert Redford) asked "Bear Claw Kris Lapp" (Will Geer) a question that began this conversation: "Would you happen to know what month of the year it is?" "No, I truly wouldn't. I'm sorry, pilgrim." "March. Maybe April." "March maybe. I don't believe April. Winter is a long time going?" "Yea." "Stay's long this high. March is a green, muddy month down below. Some folks like it. Farmers mostly."

After a long hard-fought winter, Jeremiah was hoping for confirmation that spring was near. The Bible talks about signs of the season. Jeremiah the prophet, writes, "the stork knows her appointed season, ... the thrush and the dove observe their time of migration...." We also find Jesus saying, "Learn this lesson from the fig tree: as soon as the leaves come out and the twigs get tender, you know summer is near." During this month of March, maybe you are looking for signs of warmer days? Maybe a spiritual-winter has chilled your soul and you are longing for confirmation that spring is spiritually near. You can find a warming confirmation with Jesus, and you can find Him in a church full of seekers near you.



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

## LIONS CLUB SPRING CLEAN STREET WALK



The New Hope Lions Club along with the support of the New Hope City Council needs your help on **Saturday, April 17** for the annual Spring Clean Street Walk. All participants will meet at **8:00 a.m.** in the parking lot at Piggly Wiggly and remove trash from our roadways until noon.

Once again, the city council will provide the equipment, such as vests, pick-up sticks, bags and gloves.

If you or your group or organization would like to participate, please contact Ava Cambron at **256-723-4695** or Charlie McPeters at **256-479-0184**.

Let's keep our town looking beautiful!

*Scott Glover*

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# JOIN US FOR OPENING DAY NEW HOPE REC CENTER

**Saturday, March 27  
Beginning at 10:00 a.m.**

...

**Baseball and Softball Scrimmage Games**



**FUNDRAISER DINNER**

*Purchase tickets for dinner plates at the Rec Center*

**CHICKEN ... HAMBURGER ... HOT DOG**

**Volunteer for the Booster Club! Call 723-2111 for meeting dates and times - [www.newhoperec.org](http://www.newhoperec.org)**



# From Falls Mill



## COMMUNITY RECIPES

### BASIC GRITS

Place one cup of Falls Mill stone-ground grits in a bowl. Cover with 2 cups of water; stir. The light bran will rise to the top. Carefully pour off the water and light bran reserving the grits in the bowl. Rinse again if desired. In a heavy-bottomed saucepan, bring 2 cups of water, 1/2 teaspoon of salt and 1 tablespoon of butter to a boil. Stir in the grits. Boil for one minute, then reduce the heat to low and simmer, covered, about 20 minutes. Stir occasionally until grits are thick and creamy. If too thick, add a little more water, milk or cream. Serve hot. Makes about four half-cup servings.

### EASY CHEESE GRITS

4 cups water  
1 cup Falls Mill stone-ground grits  
2 tsp. instant chicken bouillon  
1 thin slice onion, finely chopped  
2 Tbsp. butter  
1/4 cup half-and-half  
2 to 4 oz. cheese (American, cheddar or Havarti)

Place grits in bowl and cover with 2 cups water; stir. Pour off the light bran.

Bring 2 cups water, onion, instant chicken bouillon and butter to a boil in a heavy-bottomed saucepan and add grits to the boiling mixture. Reduce heat to low and cook, covered, 20 minutes, stirring occasionally until grits are soft and creamy. Add half-and-half and cheese. Stir until cheese melts. Serve hot. Yields 4 half-cup servings.

### FRIED GRITS

Prepare basic grits. After they are done, pour them into an ungreased loaf pan. Let cool for 30 minutes, or until firm. Turn the pan over so the grits loaf slides out. Cut the loaf into 1/2 inch thick slices. Mix some flour, salt and pepper together on a plate and dip the grits slices (both sides) in the flour mixture. Put a quarter inch of oil in a skillet, and fry the slices on medium high heat for about 5 minutes on each side, or until golden brown.

### SAUSAGE AND GRITS

Prepare basic grits and set aside. Cook some sausage, breaking it up into small pieces. Drain the fat and stir the sausage into the grits. Beat an egg and add to the mixture. Pour into a loaf pan. Chill in the refrigerator until firm. Slide the grits out of the pan and prepare the same as Fried Grits recipe above.

### JALAPEÑO GRITS

To your basic grits add 1-1/2 cups of shredded cheese, 3 tablespoons butter, 2 beaten eggs, chopped jalapeño pepper to taste (start with 2 tablespoons), salt and pepper to taste.

Pour into a greased baking dish, bake at 350° for about 30 minutes. Top will be lightly browned.

### SHRIMP AND GRITS

Use clean, de-veined shrimp, sauté in skillet with 2 tablespoons butter and garlic salt or Cajun seasoning to taste for 3 to 5 minutes until shrimp is firm. Do not over cook. Serve over basic grits or easy cheese grits. Garnish with diced tomatoes and crumbled bacon.

### ALOHA GRITS

Like sweet grits? Try this recipe. Prepare basic grits. Stir in 1/4 cup milk or cream, 4 tablespoons brown sugar and 1/4 cup pineapple juice. Stir together. Pour into a greased baking dish. Sprinkle top with shredded coconut, crushed macadamia nuts and ginger. Bake at 350° for about 30 minutes.

## CALLING ALL COOKS

We need your recipes. Do you have a favorite recipe that you'd like to share? Perhaps it's your grandmother's chocolate pie or great grandmother's pound cake recipe. Each month, *The Communicator* magazine features tried-and-true, kitchen tested recipes. If you'd like to share your recipes, email it to [communicator@nehp.net](mailto:communicator@nehp.net), or mail it to:

NHTC  
The Communicator  
PO Box 452  
New Hope, Alabama 35760

# Spring is Here



Ryan Furlough at Disney's Epcot Theme Park. Photo by Teresa Furlough.



Halle Ray Bodine playing in the flowers. Photo by Amber King.



Destini Callahan 5 years old. Photo taken in her nanny's back yard.



Lauren and Olivia Kelly having a tea party. It was submitted by their mom, Victoria Kelly.

"Mommy and Me" is the photo theme for May. 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 May is March 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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