



The Communicator

VOL. 11, NO. 3 • MAY/JUNE 2012

PUBLISHED FOR MEMBERS OF

New Hope
Telephone Cooperative
Your Communications Connection

Setting his Sights

NHHS's Johnathan Ford
plans to play in the SEC

Sweet Memories

are all that remain
for OCR bakery

On Mission at Home

Baptist group helping
local folks in need

The Communicator

Vol. 11, No. 3

May/June 2012

is a bimonthly magazine published by New Hope Telephone Cooperative, ©2012. It is distributed without charge to all Cooperative members/owners.

New Hope Telephone Cooperative

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New Hope
Telephone Cooperative
Your Communications Connection

is a member-owned corporation dedicated to providing communications technology to the residents and businesses of New Hope, Grant and Owens Cross Roads.

On the cover:

New Hope High School running back Johnathan Ford has already received offers from several colleges. Read his story beginning on Page 8.

MANAGER'S MESSAGE

Make plans to attend your Annual Meeting

Winter has passed, and spring is here. This is one the best times to enjoy the natural beauty this area has to offer. Many of us will use this time to tackle the home repairs, projects and "honey do" lists that we've put off until warmer weather.

As you start to build a new fence, put in a new mailbox or do any sort of landscaping that requires digging into the ground, think about what utility lines might be buried beneath you. Before you dig, call 811.

When you dial 811, you will be connected to the Alabama 811 center. They take your information, then notify local utilities — including New Hope Telephone Cooperative. We then come and mark the locations of underground lines using flags or paint, so you will know exactly where not to dig.

Statistics from the Common Ground Alliance say that about once every three minutes buried utility lines are damaged by digging. Because of things like erosion or previous digging, some utility lines can be only a few inches below the surface, which is much closer than most people believe.

Striking a utility line can cause serious injury, as well as service outages for you

and your neighbors. It can also result in serious repair costs — replacing a damaged large fiber cable could cost a few thousand dollars. Those are things we want you to avoid, and 811 is the way to do that.

Spring also marks the time of year for your cooperative's Annual Meeting. On behalf of every NHTC employee, I want to invite you and your entire family to join us Tuesday, May 15 and celebrate this important day. The business meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium at New Hope High School.

As a cooperative, everyone who purchases NHTC services is a member-owner and encouraged to participate in the business of their cooperative. The Annual Meeting will include the board elections, and members will hear a report of our progress since last year. Of course, there will be entertainment for all ages, door prizes and snacks. We hope to see you there! ▲



TOM WING
General Manager,
New Hope Telephone
Cooperative



TAKING BIDS - NHTC is accepting sealed bids for a 1995 Ford F-800. Lift-All boom with working height of 50 feet. 72,203 miles. Contact Donald Morrison at 256-723-4211. Sealed bids may be delivered to NHTC's office on Main Drive in New Hope, or mailed to NHTC, PO Box 452, New Hope, AL 35760. Bids will be opened at 2 p.m. on May 31, 2012 at NHTC. There is a minimum bid of \$7,500. NHTC reserves the right to refuse any and all bids. Vehicle sold as is.



ALWAYS BE SAFE

May is National Electrical Safety Month, and while it is important to be safe year round it's a good time for a reminder about being safe around overhead lines.

While almost all of NHTC's lines are low voltage, they usually hang only a few feet from high-voltage electric lines. Here are several tips to keep in mind whenever you are working around power poles or utility lines:

- ▶ Never climb on or otherwise disturb utility poles
- ▶ Don't plant trees under utility lines
- ▶ Don't burn brush under lines
- ▶ Never shoot a gun in the direction of a utility line
- ▶ Never touch a downed line, whether you think it is telephone or electric
- ▶ Call 256-723-4211 to report downed lines

\$1,000 MOVE IN!



188 CITY PARK RD • NEW HOPE • \$149,900
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You can own this home for as little as \$1,000 out of pocket. Here's how:

- Have a credit score of 640 or better
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- Have income of less than \$74,750 for a family of 4 or less, or \$98,650 for a family of 5 or more
- Qualify for principal and interest payments of approximately \$722 per month
- Put up \$500 earnest money with contract
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The Dog Days of Summer Will Soon Be Here



Make sure your unit can handle the heat!
Have it **cleaned and **serviced** for only \$49**

Hurry, this offer ends May 30.



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NHTC ANNUAL MEETING

TUESDAY, MAY 15

**NEW HOPE MIDDLE SCHOOL
LUNCHROOM &
AUDITORIUM**

**5 P.M. REGISTRATION
7:30 P.M. BUSINESS MEETING**

Be sure to bring valid photo ID
with you to vote in board elections

JOIN US!

**Entertainment by Robert Galloway
Door Prizes**

**CAREconnect Demonstrations
Voting for Board Members**



MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND YOUR ANNUAL MEETING

NHTC members are more than just customers — they are also part owners in the company. One of the most important responsibilities of members is to vote to fill positions on the Board of Directors.

The Board of Directors is a group of individuals elected by co-operative members to represent their concerns and ideas for the future of the company. Board members have a responsibility to stay informed and up-to-date about telecommunications issues. They use their knowledge to help direct the cooperative on both long-term and short-term goals.

By casting a ballot in this election, you help determine the future direction of NHTC.

There are two positions up for election at the Annual Meeting. Running for Place Four of the New Hope exchange is incumbent Barry Jones and nominee Dennis Loy. Running for Place Five of the New Hope exchange is incumbent Mike Whitaker and nominee Anthony Byram. Other candidates may be nominated from the floor at the Annual Meeting.

Members of the 2012 Nominating Committee are Ritchie Whorton of Owens Cross Roads, Mark Poole of New Hope and Scott Chandler (chairman) of Grant.▲

Voting is as easy as 1 - 2 - 3...

1. *Bring a photo ID with you to the Annual Meeting on Tuesday, May 15.*
2. *Present your ID and register in the Elementary/Middle School Cafeteria.*
3. *Mark your ballot and drop it in the ballot box. You may also hold on to your ballot and vote in the auditorium after any nominations from the floor and before final tallying is conducted.*

NHTC's Statement of Nondiscrimination

In accordance with federal law and the U.S. Department of Agriculture's policy, New Hope Telephone Cooperative is prohibited from discriminating on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age or disability (not all prohibited bases apply to all programs).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write to:

USDA
Director, Office of Civil Rights
Room 326-W, Whitten Bldg.
1400 Independence Ave. SW
Washington, D.C. 20250-9410

Or you may call 202-720-5964 (voice or TTY) USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.

New Hope Telephone Cooperative, Inc.

Summary of Financial Position and Performance as of December 31, 2011

Income Statement

Operating Revenues	
Regulated	\$ 7,492,031
Non-Regulated	3,224,459
Total Operating Revenues.....	\$10,716,490
Operating Expenses	
Regulated	6,385,027
Non-Regulated	3,639,429
Total Operating Expenses	\$10,024,456
Operating Margins	\$692,034
Non-Operating Revenues & Expenses	
Non-Operating Revenue	36,489
Non-Operating Expense	(17,297)
Total Non-Operating Margins.....	\$19,192
Fixed Charges	
Interest on Long-Term Debt	529,584
Total Fixed Charges	529,584
Net Margins	\$181,642

Balance Sheet

Current Assets	6,026,154
Non-Current Assets	10,485
Telephone Plant (Net of Depreciation)	24,896,194
CATV Plant (Net of Depreciation)	3,212,608
Other Non-Regulated Plant.....	272,454
Total Assets.....	\$34,417,895
Current Liabilities	1,731,008
Long-Term Debt	13,475,173
Total Liabilities.....	\$15,206,181
Patronage Capital.....	17,658,080
Contributed Capital — forfeited.....	2,531,065
Retained Earnings (deficit).....	(501,091)
Post-Retirement Benefits.....	(476,340)
Total Equities	\$19,211,714
Total Liabilities and Equities	\$34,417,895

The above information is summarized from the consolidated Financial Statements of New Hope Telephone Cooperative, Inc., as of December 31, 2011. This statement was audited by the independent accounting firm of Jackson, Thornton and Company PC, Certified Public Accountants and is on file at the cooperative's business office.

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

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

Dear Friend,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Now for Emma, who is the little girl in the photo. About a year ago, she was plagued by asthma. Each day as I changed her diaper, I would give her an adjustment. The asthma started to improve immediately, and now she is virtually symptom free.

The other child, my son Nicholas, has recently been having some headaches. He’ll come up

to me and say, “Daddy, adjust my neck.” And even before he gets up he’ll say, “man that feels a lot better, it’s all gone.”

It’s strange how life is, because now people come to see 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)

“Thanks Dr. Mike for helping my wife, my staff, and myself.” (Dr. Pete Sparks)

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 May 31, 2012, you will receive my entire new patient exam for \$27 out of pocket. 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 18 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.

A SEASON TO REMEMBER

1992 STATE CHAMPION BASEBALL TEAM

Twenty years ago, they were slick-fielding infielders, speedy baserunners, powerful sluggers and crafty pitchers.

Now they're parents, husbands, contractors, business owners, plant managers and coaches.

But no matter how many years pass, they can always say that they were once champions.

This spring marks the 20th anniversary of New Hope High School's only state championship in a major boys sport.

It was two decades ago when the 1992 baseball team topped St. Paul's in Mobile to take the elusive championship.

"It was huge," says Chris Hicks, the Indians' head baseball coach who was an assistant coach on the 1992 team. "It put us on the map."

Other team members say it's still something they can hang their hat on. "Not everyone can say they won a state championship," says Mark Craig, who was a senior second basemen on the team. "That's what everybody plays for — to win games and win championships."

The 1992 Indians were honored earlier this year in a ceremony just before the current squad of Indians took the field. Ten of the 17 players were present at the event, where the team unveiled a 4-foot by 8-foot sign in the field house commemorating the historic season.

Among those present was catcher Jake Hicks, who was a junior on the team. "At that time it was all the talk of the community. It was just a shock," Hicks says.

Coach Hicks says there were better teams in the playoffs that year. The 1992 Indians didn't have a squad of fireballing pitchers on the mound. Their lineup didn't necessarily strike fear into opposing pitchers' hearts. But they knew how to use their gloves in the field and, more importantly, they knew how to win — going all the way back to when they won the state championship in



The 1992 State Champion NHHS Baseball Team



20 YEARS LATER - Several members of the 1992 baseball team were on hand for a ceremony unveiling of a sign commemorating their championship which will be placed on the field house.

T-ball years before.

"That group of kids had played together for a long, long time. They won a lot of games," Coach Hicks says. "They just believed they were going to win every time they went out there."

And win they did. In 1992, the Indians went 33-5. They lost their fifth game around spring break in March and then didn't add another loss to the scorebook through the championship game in May.

Jake Hicks remembers Coach Al Rauls stopping the team during one of their 90-minute-long running exercises and going down the lineup from top to bottom. "He said there's no way, from what I've seen from you, you can't win state," the former catcher remembers. "He saw it I think more than we did."

Craig recalls one game in the first round of the playoffs where the team was up against one of the top pitchers in the state, who had already signed on to

pitch at LSU. They beat him in their last at bat with a squeeze bunt. "After we won that game, we were like 'if we can beat this guy, we can beat anybody,'" he remembers.

Coach Hicks says he still brings up that 1992 team when he's talking to his current players. Teams have failed to return to the 1992 standard of excellence, but that doesn't mean they don't have it in their sights. "That's always our goal, to get back," Hicks says. "We've had some luck getting back to the playoffs, we just haven't made it that deep."

Teaching that next generation is the closest most of the players get to the game now. A handful went on to college careers and a couple still coach around the area. But wherever they go, they carry memories of that special 1992 season.

"We're old, fat and slow now," Craig says, "but we could play some ball then." ▲



COLLEGE PREP

New Hope running back Johnathan “Rudy” Ford commits to Vanderbilt

In the movie *Rudy*, the title character plays an under-sized football player who's short on talent and struggles to convince the coaches to put him in a game.

New Hope High's "Rudy" is just about the opposite — and he doesn't have to convince anyone to give him the ball.

Johnathan "Rudy" Ford will be a star running back again for the Indians this fall, but he's already announced his plans on where to play football in the fall of 2013. While attending Vanderbilt's Black and Gold spring game in Nashville in April, he told the coaching staff he was committed to being a Commodore.

"It just felt like home away from home up there," he says of his visits to Vanderbilt. "They had a lot to offer in terms of education." He said early playing time and location also played a role as he narrowed down his options.

And he had plenty of schools to choose from. Mississippi State, South Alabama, Purdue, Southern Miss, Minnesota and Ole Miss also made scholarship offers. Some recruiting sites say other schools including Auburn, Alabama, Oregon, Arkansas and Kentucky were also interested in the 190-pound running back. Even after committing to Vanderbilt he's hearing from coaches at Georgia Tech.

Ford said he's lucky to have a couple of options to fulfill his dream of playing in the SEC.

"Ever since I was young playing flag football it's been a goal of mine," he says. "It is just a special blessing and opportunity to even get an offer from an SEC school. Not very many people are fortunate enough to get an opportunity like this. It means a lot to me and my teammates."

Some analysts have said Ford could be the top-rated running back in the state. Evaluators see Ford as a solid all-around back with good vision and nice speed. So far in his high school career he's become known for finding openings in the middle of a crowd and breaking tackles to gain yards after initial contact. And once he gets in the open field there are few defenders around who can run him down.

“ *It is just a special blessing
and opportunity to even get
an offer from an SEC school.
It means a lot to me and
my teammates.*

—Johnathan “Rudy” Ford

”

"Johnathan is very blessed in the speed aspect of his game," says his coach, Randall Taylor. "He has a good size on his physical frame. He has sacrificed himself in the weight room and has become tremendously strong."

"He is also blessed that he has a good offensive line in front of him," Coach Taylor adds.

Ford said he's working on his pad levels, staying low to the ground and adding about 10 pounds of muscle. Coach Taylor says the team's star has "deceptive power" and might be called on to show it this fall.

"We're looking for him to be much more physical," says Taylor. "He is a talent and we're blessed to have him."

But while colleges have been interested in his touchdowns and yards per carry, they are equally interested in another of Ford's stats: his 3.4 grade point average. "One thing that has really helped with the recruiting process is the fact that Johnathan has dedicated himself to academics, too," Taylor explains. "When you start talking about colleges like Mississippi State and Vanderbilt, that is key."

Ford says he likes math, and wants to study engineering. Academics as well as football played a role in his decision to suit up as a Commodore. "Academics are a part of it," he says. "You want to go to college and get that degree for later in life. (Vanderbilt) is a better degree than what you could get at other colleges."

Even though Ford practices with his team, works out at school and also works out at Madison Academy in Huntsville, he still makes time to study. "I get my school work done," Ford says humbly. "I find the time to get it done."

His humility is another thing scouts like. After a touchdown he nonchalantly hands the football to the officials rather than doing a celebratory dance or emphatic spike. He's also quick to praise his teammates. "I am not alone on the field and I need those guys helping me," he says. "I hope to take all this and do good with it instead of doing bad with it. It means a lot to me to share this with my teammates."

The running back credits his family with teaching him how to carry himself. "You know, your family is always the hardest on you," he says. "They are making sure that I maintain and that I stay humble. They make sure I'm focused on my goals in life. They want me to set life goals that include more than just football." ▲



A REAL TALENT "He is a talent and we're blessed to have him," says Coach Randall Taylor of running back Johnathan Ford.

INSPIRATION CORNER

Teresa and I kept my 96-year-old paternal grandmother, "Mema Mag," for a few weeks. We have greatly enjoyed stories of growing up in Owens Cross Roads during the 1920s and 1930s. Things like, sleeping in the same bed with her brother because her sister was so mean; how much she hated picking cotton, and walking to school every day. One repeated theme in her stories was Faith and Work. Everyone did their share of the chores, and everyone went to church.

While it's not easy being a parent, one sentiment I hear echoed through the generations is, "I want my children to have it better than I did." There's certainly nothing wrong with that — so long as the idea of having "it better" is to do an even better job at raising children "in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." Otherwise, if the idea of "better" means to not teach RESPONSIBILITY, or the meaning of WORK and RESPECT, then one can certainly expect pain and sorrow to follow. Raising a family under the admonition of the Lord does not mean spoil them. That's the grandparents' job! Raising a family in God means seeking His guidance in your own life, so you can better "train up a child in the way they should go." Another Proverb tells us doing these things will give rest and delight to the soul. I pray your Mother's Day and Father's Day is filled with rest and delight, and celebrate it with your Heavenly Father, in a church near you.



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

Getting the job done

Many times, a need in the community might go unnoticed if it were not for a program called BMEN at the First Baptist Church of New Hope. Baptist Men on Mission (BMEN) works through a variety of organizations, including the Southern Baptist Association and The Alabama State Convention's disaster relief program.



Led by retired Lt. Col. Brian Maijalas, the BMEN team is made up of around 30 men from high school age through retirement. The ministry provides valuable help for those who cannot help themselves. "Many times a need is noticed," says Maijalas. "Someone may see an elderly neighbor who needs a wheelchair ramp, and they'll contact the ministry and we'll build it for them. Some of our team just completed a new roof for an elderly widow in the community."

Team members come from all walks of life. "We get an assessment of where members' strengths are," he says. "Some are tradesmen who build houses or do electrical work, and some are like me, just hired muscle that helps to get the job done. Sometimes that includes weatherizing houses for the elderly or even debris removal. Whatever area works best is where we serve."

All BMEN team members receive certification training through the Southern Baptist Association to use chainsaws and other machinery safely. "After the April tornadoes in 2011, our chainsaw crew from BMEN went down to Guntersville and cleared trees," he says.

A surprising part of the work BMEN does in the community is helping those in need of food. "We have a lot of hunters," he says. "If we know someone needs food, we'll shoot some venison for them. In fact, I just killed a deer a few weeks ago and that venison stocked the freezer of a lady who was recently widowed in our community."

BMEN is not just about repairing homes and feeding people. It is also about repairing broken people and feeding souls through biblical teaching and mentoring.

"We serve the community, our families and the church," says Maijalas. "We support each other as men because we need to strengthen each other spiritually

and have that "Brother in Arms" kind of mentality. And in this area there are a lot of broken homes, and there are a lot of young men who need a father figure or someone who can kind of work with them and guide them. We are able to bond with those kids and teach them about the Lord.

The group meets every other Monday from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. at First Baptist Church in New Hope. "We drink coffee, have snacks, read the Bible and study. Attendance is encouraged, but not required because we advocate taking your responsibilities at home seriously. A man's first point of duty is at home with his kids or at their school activities."

As a JROTC (Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps) instructor at Madison County High School, Maijalas understands how important his role is. "JROTC's mission is to motivate young people to serve their community," he says. "It fits perfectly with what we do at BMEN."

Throughout the year, BMEN also hosts several entertainment functions for members. "We host the Fishers of Men national tournament trail," says Maijalas. "Each year, about 100 professional fishermen come through and we feed them and fish with them. We also do a wildlife cookout once a year. We set up rifle ranges and skeet ranges right before hunting season opens. We'll have a little time of strengthening and do devotion, too. It's really just some time for us to get together and have fun doing guy stuff."

"BMEN is a wonderful program that is here to serve our community, and others like it, wherever the Lord may need us," he says.

For more information about BMEN, email secretary@firstbaptistnewhope.com. In the subject line type "BMEN." ▲

Volunteers with BMEN meet a number of needs throughout the community. Email secretary@firstbaptistnewhope.com to learn how you can help.

NHTC adds to its cable television channel lineup



Subscribers to NHTC's TV Expanded cable package have a new TV station to watch. Disney Junior was recently added to the lineup on channel 75. Disney Junior was created for children ages 2 to 7 and features original series, classic Disney movies and more.

Cable subscribers who have HD television sets have a new channel to watch, too. WZDX has launched a new channel called MeTV Fox 54.3. The channel can be viewed on channel 81.5 for subscribers with a high-definition television set. IPTV customers can watch it on channel 815. The channel features lots of old classics and westerns.

Keep up with NHTC's most current channel lineups online at www.nhtc.coop.

Thinking of buying a new home? NOW IS THE TIME!

Favorable market conditions mean it may be easier than you think — today's lower interest rates could translate into lower purchase costs on a new home — slower home sales mean more choices for homebuyers and a better chance of finding the home you really want. Peoples State Bank makes the mortgage process easy!

Josh Barnes, a mortgage professional can design a home loan with your individual needs in mind.

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Community CALENDAR

New Hope Library Summer Fun

Bring your children to the library this June. Preschoolers will enjoy Story Hour every Tuesday at 10:30 a.m., while children in kindergarten through the fifth grade will enjoy Reading Fun on Mondays at 2:30 p.m. There will also be fun for teens on June 13 at 6 p.m., June 18 at 2 p.m., June 22 at 6 p.m. and June 27 at 2 p.m.

New Hope Rec Center

During baseball season, a preregistration signup sheet will be available at the concession stand for anyone interested in playing football through the rec department.

May 5

Pat A Cake Bakery • Going Out Of Business Sale

Virginia Moore is selling all of her baking and catering equipment. The sale will take place May 5 at 803 Cave Spring Road in Owens Cross Roads. Contact her at 256-725-4357.

May 8

Older Americans Festival

The Madison County Commission and TARCOC Area Council on Aging are hosting this festival at Sharon Johnston Park in New Market from 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. Lunch will be served at 11:30 a.m. Bring your lawn chairs. Rain date is set for May 10.

May 12

Madison County Fishing Rodeo

Be sure to bring the kids out for this fun event at Sharon Johnston Park in New Market. Boys and girls must bring their own rod & reel or pole and check in a half-hour prior to their fishing times. Fishing times are: 8:30 to 10 a.m. for ages 5 to 10 and 10:30 a.m. to noon for ages 11 to 15. All rules will be posted. Bring your own bait and lures. Bait will be provided for any children who need it. There will be entertainment and prizes for the youngsters.

June 4

Swimming Pool Opens for Summer

New Hope Rec. Department will open the swimming pool Monday through Friday from noon to 6 p.m. Admission is \$3. Swimming lessons are \$5 each and swimming parties are \$75 for two hours. Call 256-723-3800 for more information.

June 4-14

Countywide Baseball Tournament

New Hope Rec Department invites everyone to attend these games and support the youth. For more information call 256-723-2111 or search for New Hope Rec Center on Facebook.

Send your Community Calendar announcements to communicator@nehp.net at least eight weeks in advance, or call Nikki at 256-723-4211.

Virginia Moore:

Queen of Cakes

Longtime Pat A Cake owner retires from baking

After 36 years of sifting, mixing and baking, Virginia Moore has hung up her apron.

Moore, who started the Pat A Cake Bakery in Owens Cross Roads in 1975, had no choice but to close her shop. "I held on as long as I could, but the arthritis was in my hands so bad that I had to give it up," she says.

While Pat A Cake is named after a game for babies, the work Moore did was anything but child's play. She's known for her unique cake designs including tractors, babies, castles and animals. Once she filled an order for 75 cakes that looked like houses. If the Food Network's Duff Goldman is the Ace of Cakes, Moore must at least be the Queen. "My favorite thing was just shaping the cakes and pleasing people," Moore says.

Looking back on her cake baking career, she remembers two projects that really stand out. One was an icon of exploring the stars; the other, a place where the sun doesn't shine.

NASA once called on Moore to make

a space shuttle cake to feed 600 people. By the time she was finished she had built a highly detailed, 75-pound monster that took three men to carry. "The receptionist kept calling and asking me questions," Moore remembers. "She said her boss was an artist and he was afraid it wouldn't look like the model. But they were well pleased."

Her second most memorable creation was not quite as glamorous but also presented a set of challenges. A doctor's office placed an order with unusual instructions: the cake was supposed to look like a colon, the end of the digestive tract. "I said 'I don't know what a colon inside your body looks like,'" Moore remembers. "The nurse said 'Don't worry, I'll bring you a picture.'"

Moore made the cake, but when she stepped back and looked at it, there was something missing. "It was so drab looking I thought this is no fun at all," she says. "So I put chocolate drops where it comes out the body. So I've had fun, too. I never did X-rated cakes

of any kind, but I felt okay doing this cake."

The cake baking business has not always been fun. In fact, one of the toughest times of Moore's life came before her shop officially opened for business. Her husband died of a heart attack just two days after the bakery's open house.

Moore said it's terrible her husband never got to see the place in operation. Following his death, she realized one of their early decisions about the business was quite a blessing.

He had wanted to build the bakery on the highway, but she wanted it next to their home so she could keep an eye on their 10-year-old son. After her husband passed away, it became even more important for this single parent to be close to home.

Moore says she doesn't know what she would have done if she had found herself running a shop away from home while trying to look after her son. "The Lord knew what he was doing, giving me the bakery," she says. "The Lord knew I could make a living at home."

It's no surprise Moore can put sweet icing over a tough situation. It's the kind of attitude one should expect from the Queen of Cakes. ▲

Virginia Moore is selling all of her baking and catering equipment. The sale will take place **May 5** at **803 Cave Spring Road** in Owens Cross Roads. Contact her at **256-725-4357**.



It took three men to transport this 75-pound Space Shuttle Challenger cake that Moore created for NASA.

Madison County Homemaker's Woman of the Year




Paula Smyth was named 2011 Woman of the Year by the Madison County Homemakers and Community Leaders in a ceremony held on Feb. 18, 2012. She is a member of the Family First Homemakers and Community Leaders of the Owens Cross Roads and New Hope area.

Fellow club member Debbie O'Neal says, "Paula gives 200 percent to her club. Whenever a project is needed she is one of the people we call on to get things done. Her enthusiasm and willingness to always put in her time motivates those around her."

Among the projects Paula is involved with are sewing items for Sew Healing at Huntsville Hospital, several nursing home projects, New Hope Founder's Day booth and the Holiday Bonanza.

Paula is shown here with her husband, Bill Smyth (left), her daughter, Katrina Smyth, and her father, Paul Wheeler, who came out to surprise her at this event.▲



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What's for breakfast?



French Toast Casserole

- 5 eggs, lightly beaten
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1 cup half-and-half cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 (1 pound) loaf French bread, cut diagonally in 1 inch slices
- 1/2 cup butter, melted
- 1 cup light brown sugar
- 2 tablespoons maple syrup
- 1 cup chopped pecans

In a large bowl, whisk together eggs, milk, cream and vanilla. Dip bread slices into egg mixture and place in a lightly greased 9x13 inch baking pan. Refrigerate overnight. The next morning: Preheat oven to 350°. In a small bowl, combine butter, sugar, maple syrup and pecans. Spoon mixture over bread. Bake in preheated oven until golden, about 40 minutes. Let stand 5 minutes before serving.

Breakfast Pizza

- 1 (8 ounce) can refrigerated crescent rolls
- 1 pound bulk pork sausage
- 1 cup frozen shredded hash brown potatoes, thawed
- 1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
- 3 eggs
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese

Unroll crescent dough and place on a greased 12-inch pizza pan; press seams together and press up sides of pan to form a crust. In a skillet, brown sausage over medium heat; drain and cool slightly. Sprinkle sausage, hash browns and cheddar cheese over crust. In a bowl, beat eggs, milk and pepper; pour over

pizza. Sprinkle with Parmesan cheese. Bake at 375° for 28-30 minutes or until golden brown. Let stand 10 minutes before cutting.

Breakfast Pies

- 3/4 pound breakfast sausage
- 1/8 cup minced onion
- 1/8 cup minced green bell pepper
- 1 (12 ounce) can refrigerated biscuit dough
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 3 tablespoons milk
- 1/2 cup shredded Colby-Monterey Jack cheese

Preheat oven to 400°. In a large, deep skillet over medium-high heat, combine sausage, onion and green pepper. Cook until sausage is evenly brown. Drain, crumble, and set aside. Separate the dough into 10 individual biscuits. Flatten each biscuit out, then line the bottom and sides of 10 muffin cups. Evenly distribute sausage mixture between the cups. Mix together the eggs and milk, and divide between the cups. Sprinkle tops with shredded cheese. Bake in preheated oven for 18 to 20 minutes, or until filling is set.

Fruit Smoothie

- 1 banana
- 1/2 cup yogurt
- 1 1/2 teaspoons white sugar
- 1/4 cup pineapple juice
- 1 cup strawberries
- 1 teaspoon orange juice
- 1 teaspoon milk

Blend all ingredients in blender until smooth.

We want to feature your recipes in an upcoming issue of *The Communicator*!

Send your name, address and phone number, along with four or more recipes, and you could be chosen as a featured cook.

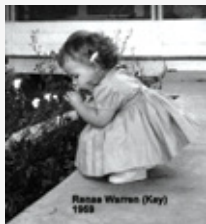
Send your information to:

NHTC
Attn: Recipes
P.O. Box 452
New Hope, AL 35760

or email: communicator@nehp.net

COMMUNITY PHOTOS

Look Alikes



Renae Warren Key and her granddaughter Janie Renae Dickey. Janie's mother is Karla Key Dickey.
Photo submitted by Ava Cambron.



Chris Bridges, Kevin Bridges, Troupers Bridges (1 yr old), Wesley Bridges (16 yrs old), Jason McNatt, and Kody McNatt (10 yrs old) with their Father/Grandfather Ronald Bridges during a trip to Destin, FL in November 2011.



THREE GENERATIONS
Glenda Moody, Andrea (Moody) Bridges, Alexandra Bridges



Tala Manning and her mother
Regina Marks of Grant.



Emily and Trisha Sadler of New Hope.
Photo submitted by Toots.



Anthony Pence with his children
Blake and Aubrey.
Photo by Pence Kelly Photography.



Paige Smotherman and Teresa
Simmons of New Hope.
Photo by Toots.



Heath Marks and his son Montana
Marks, GBSA Opening Day at Grant
Town Park.

"Hot Rods" is the photo theme for July/August. Send to: NHTC • Attn.: Communicator Photos • P.O. Box 452 • New Hope, AL 35760, or e-mail your photo to communicator@neh.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 submission is June 30.** 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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