

THE CHOWAN HERALD

Vol. LXIX, No. 30

Published in historic Edenton . . . The South's prettiest town.

Single Copies 50¢

One Hour Penny plans event 5-C

Edenton Bay Challenge held here 1-B

Venture Crew 156 launches sailboat 4-B

Deputy, other officers lose lives in plane crash

BY BEN DECK
Cox NC Publications

TYNER - A Chowan County Sheriff's Deputy and two police officers from western Carolina were killed last Wednesday afternoon when the single-engine plane they were using to search for marijuana plants crashed in northeastern Chowan County.

The deputy, Richard Edward Ashley Sr., 35, joined the Chowan County Sheriff's Office 16 months ago and had volunteered to fly the mission Wednesday, Sheriff Fred

Spruill said.

Spruill, struggling to maintain composure, said Ashley's death cut short a promising law enforcement career in Chowan's 16-officer department. "We're a very small agency," Spruill said. "We're a family."

Spruill identified the other men killed in the crash as Sgt. Anthony Scott Futrell of the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department and Maj. Robert C. Kennedy of the Boone Police Department. Kennedy, 46, Spruill said.

Futrell and Kennedy were

trained pilot spotters for marijuana plants, Spruill said. It was Ashley's job to communicate with law enforcement officials on the ground the location of any drugs found.

The National Transportation Safety Board and the Federal Aviation Administration are both investigating the crash, the sheriff said.

The plane that crashed at about 3:20 p.m., a Cessna 172-S, was one of two craft being used for drug surveillance flights, and the second plane remained in the area until emergency crews arrived, Spruill said. The second plane, also being flown by the Civil Air Patrol, with Deputy Sheriff Carl Rabe then returned to Northeastern Regional Airport in Edenton, where both flights had taken off earlier in the day.

The flights were part of a long-standing statewide drug eradication program, that was scheduled last April by the



Deputy Sheriff Rick Ashley

Witnesses recall plane flying low

BY HELEN K. OUTLAND
Staff Writer

For three young Chowan County boys the way they look at life was changed forever last Wednesday. As the boys were spending the afternoon doing "guy things" a small plane came into view. According to the boys the plane began circling the cotton field and nearby woods, behind Bryan Evans' house.

Bryan, 12, and his friend, John Mansfield, 14, were playing in the Jordan's family pool. "We saw it (the plane) come over the trees and it started flying around the cotton field and all, kinda low," says Bryan Evans. "John (Mansfield, age

See PLANE On Page 6-A

Memorial Fund established

A memorial fund has been established in tribute to the life and work of Deputy Richard Edward Ashley, who leaves behind a wife and two young children.

Anyone interested in contributing to the fund may send a donation to: Deputy Richard Edward Ashley Sr. Memorial Fund, c/o RBC-Centura, PO Box 268, Edenton, NC 27932.

See CRASH On Page 6-A

Burroughs seeks seat on board

Gil Burroughs gets right to the point when asked why he's a candidate for a seat on the Edenton-Chowan Board of Education.



Burroughs

"Why am I filing? Because I hope I can make a difference in the quality of our school system," he says.

"For 27 years I tried to do that in the classroom and now that I'm retired from teaching I'd like to continue making a difference through service on the school board.

He also has some very important goals to achieve if elected.

"I hope," Burroughs says, "to accomplish something in

See SCHOOL On Page 6-A



Edenton Post Master Tom Flynn (left) is shown with Ron Green, (right) Commander for Edward G. Bond Post #40. Flynn donated a mail box to the legion. (Photo by Helen Kerr Outland)

American Legion site of flag drop-off box here

BY HELEN K. OUTLAND
Staff Writer

As with so many things, time takes its toll. But, unlike an old car that can be junked or an old hat that can just be trashed, the American Flag deserves a more respectful "retirement."

Recently, the Edward G. Bond American Legion Post #40 found a way to help community groups and offices retire their aged flag in a patriotic manner.

"We would like to invite the community to use our new flag retirement mail box," says Commander of Post #40, Ron Green. The new drop box, a retired mailbox, is now located in front of the American

Legion Post on Queen Street in Edenton. "This was a mail box we had at the post office using for storage," says Edenton Post Master, Tom Flynn. "The Legion came to us and inquired about a box and we were happy to donate this one. They have done a wonderful job with this mailbox too. It looks great."

The box, a donation by the local post office, was painted red, white, and blue, with some picture detailing, all done by William Hoffman of Arrowhead.

"We want to thank the post office and William Hoffman for all the time and effort invested in this effort," says Commander Green. "The box is avail-

able 24 hours a day. People can just drive up and drop a flag in the box. They can just drive up and drop the flag off."

"The legion would like to express our heart-felt thanks to Mr. Flynn and the Edenton Post Office for their help and generosity," said Commander Green. Commander Green also added that there will be an official Retiring of the Flag service to be held some time in November.

The American Legion prides itself on their service not only to American veterans, but also to their families and the community at large.

Throughout the year the Legion organizes fundraisers to help support their cause.

Cox publishers support fundraiser

BY SUSAN HARRIS
Cox NC Publications

Jim "Catfish" Hunter is a legend in the baseball world, but here in northeastern North Carolina, he was known as "Jimmy," a neighbor and friend. He lent his fame - and his financial resources - to numerous good causes during his storied career and up until his death from complications of ALS in September 1999. In fact, he did so much for so many in his lifetime that his friends and neighbors, with his blessing, organized the

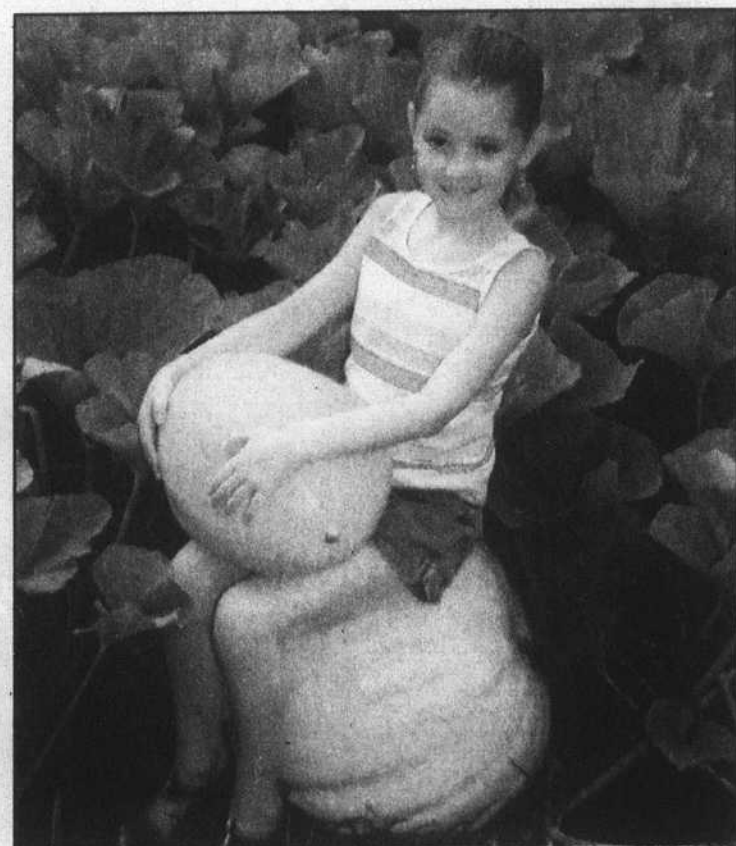
Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation in Hunter's honor shortly after his ALS diagnosis. The Foundation continues to raise funds to support research and the needs of ALS patients.

Hunter's older son, Todd, is now general manager of the Edenton Steamers, a summer baseball team affiliated with

See COX On Page 6-A



Several Cox North Carolina newspapers joined forces recently to co-sponsor a fundraiser for the Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation during an ALS Night at the Edenton Steamers game July 5. Those involved were (l-r) Bob Taylor, Advertising Sales Manager for the Bertie Ledger Advance, Susan Harris, Publisher of the Perquimans Weekly, Todd Hunter, Manager of the Edenton Steamers and son of baseball great Jim "Catfish" Hunter, Mia Noble, Advertising Sales Manager for the Chowan Herald, Mrs. Helen Hunter, wife of Jim "Catfish" Hunter, David Crawley, Publisher of the Chowan Herald, and Fran Arrington, Publisher of the Bertie Ledger Advance. (Chowan Herald photo by Helen Kerr Outland)



Pumpkinland

Courtney Potts likes to work in the garden with her mother. In April, among the flowers, they observed a pumpkin, which has continued to grow! (Blair Currie photo)

Josie Copeland FUNDRAISER **Bar-B-Que & Chicken • Leon Nixon's Catering** **Donation \$6.00**

FRIDAY, JULY 26, 2002
11:00-2:00 / 4:00-7:00

For more information please contact Jimmy Sawyer at 482-7474... Tickets can be purchased by stopping by Evans Funerals & Cremations, Joe Lee Company at Frog Crossing or by seeing any Ruritan Member.