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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Teams sought for Relay

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
 Editor

Some folks do it because it's fun. Others do it because it's good exercise. Then there's the group that does it because the life saved may be their own.

Relay for Life organizers in the Chowan-Perquimans unit are not really concerned about why people will walk to raise money for cancer research, education and support next month. Their concern is that team registration is down and that means less funds will go to save lives.

Relay for Life is a signature fund raiser for the American Cancer Society. May 21-22, volunteers across the country will walk for 24 hours to raise money for cancer research. Teams of 10-15 people will form and raise funds in a variety of ways. They will arrive at John A. Holmes High School Athletic Complex at 3 p.m. on Friday and at least one person from each team will walk on the track for 24 hours.

This year, Albemarle Electric Membership Corporation has agreed to be a Gold Sponsor, donating \$1,000 to Relay. A team of employees will also participate in the walk, raising even more funds. The business and employees are banding together to remember their employees and co-workers Solomon Hurdle, Ray Kirby and Wayne Mason, each of whom died of cancer.

Southern States has come on board as a \$500 Silver Sponsor. Like AEMC, the business is honoring employees with a corporate sponsorship. Southern States' sponsorship in support of Ben Lucy, an employee who has cancer, and in memory of Howard Williams.

Often teams are formed in support or in memory of someone who survived or did not survive cancer. The Evans Family in Edenton has a huge team and raise a lot of money each year in honor and memory of family members.

The survivors lap is to some the most touching element of the Relay. Cancer survivors from the area walk a lap together during a ceremony in their honor. It is through the research and medical breakthroughs made possible with funds from events such as Relay that allows some of these walkers to be survivors.

Take Paula Banks of Elizabeth City, for example. Banks was recently diagnosed with cancer for the third time. She is a living testament to what research can do. Not only has Banks been walking the survivor's lap, she has also been a member of a Relay team. Her outlook remains optimistic as volunteers prepare for yet another Relay event.

In addition to team fund-raising events, money is raised through a luminary sale. After dark, luminaries are lit in honor and in memory of those who have had cancer. Also, some teams sell items at the event itself.

For information on how you can become involved in Relay, call Brenda Newbern at 426-8349.

## THE EASTER BUNNY COMETH



Kids had a blast last year at the Easter event in downtown Hertford. An egg hunt, decorated bicycle and hat contests, games and breakfast with the bunny delighted all participants. The Historic Hertford Business Association will sponsor the event again this Saturday beginning at 10 a.m. on the courthouse lawn. Children ages 3-10 may participate. While the children are having fun, parents can browse through the Big Flea, an open-air flea market also on the courthouse lawn Saturday.

## Downtown celebrates season with egg hunt

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
 Editor

The Easter bunny will hop into Hertford Saturday morning.

The downtown businesses will sponsor an Easter egg hunt at 11 a.m. Judging will also be held for the Best Decorated Bicycle and the Best Decorated Hat. Games and breakfast with the bunny till get underway around 10 o'clock on the courthouse lawn. Children ages 3-10 may participate in the fun.

For the adults, there will be the monthly Big Flea, an open-air flea market on the courthouse lawn. Spaces are \$10 each. Call 426-2021 for information or rentals.

The event is one of many, including Christmas programs and the Indian Summer Festival, organized and promoted by the downtown business group to bring life back into the downtown area. The group had called itself the Hertford Downtown Merchants Association, or HDMA. In recognition of Hertford's des-



ignation as a pilot community for heritage tourism development, HDMA changed its name to Historic Hertford Business Association.

According to Mary White, owner of The Wishing Well and an active member of the business group, the name was also changed to make the membership more far-reaching and inclusive. White said business owners and managers in the downtown area want to work with other businesses in town to improve the economic outlook for all businesses. It is their belief that working

together and sharing ideas is a positive step in bringing a brighter economic future to the town.

In May, the Historic Hertford Business Association will be very busy with visits from federal agencies working with the town on the heritage tourism project and participation in the annual Old Timers Day events. Many business owners are dressing up for spring, hoping that visitors will see and appreciate the small-town atmosphere in Hertford and come back.

Call White or Frankie Eason for more information.

## Taylor Hunter will take mound

Grandson of Hall of Famer will throw first pitch at Old Timers Game

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
 Editor

Taylor Hunter will get his first start on the mound at Perquimans County High School on May 8. Taylor will pitch from the hill upon which his grandfather, Hall of Famer Jim "Catfish" Hunter, has thrown a sad fastball and captured the attention of the pros.

The toddler will toss the ceremonial first pitch for the headliner at the 19th annual Old Timers Game at 7 p.m.

A lot is on tap for this year's Old Timers Day. It will serve as the kick-off event for the Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation, which will raise funds for ALS research. Hunter was diagnosed with ALS in November.

The date — May 8 — happens to be the 31st anniversary of Hunter's major league perfect game in 1968. On hand to celebrate the anniversary of this historic event will be the man who crouched behind the plate, catcher Jim Pagliaroni. Hunter's major league cohorts Ron Davis and Sal Bando will also visit Hertford that day.

The day will get started with a prayer breakfast at the high school cafeteria at 6:30 a.m. Tickets are \$5 at the door.

At 11 a.m., pit-cooked barbecued chicken plates will go on sale. Tickets are \$5 each and are available from district Ruritans and at Woodard's Pharmacy, Country Corner, New Hope Country Store,

Layden's Supermarket and Edenton Trading Post. Plates will be sold in front of the high school. The cafeteria will be open for those who choose to eat on site.

The lights on the softball field will be dedicated at noon. After the dedication ceremony, an Old Timers Softball Game will be held. The softball program has the last state champion team at Perquimans, the 1996 squad.

A homerun derby is slated for early afternoon on the baseball field.

The 1999 junior varsity team will square off with a team of Old Timers at 3 p.m.

A program formally announcing the organization of the Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation and honoring Hunter's contributions to the community will be held on the baseball field at 5 p.m. The high school band will play and members of all state championship teams at Perquimans will be recognized. The headliner game will get underway at 7 p.m.

Tickets to the ballpark will be \$5 per person, from newborns to senior citizens. One ticket will allow admission to the softball and both baseball games as well as the program.

Both the county and town of Hertford have declared May 8 Jim "Catfish" Hunter Day in recognition of Hunter's support and contributions to the community and Northeastern North Carolina.

Because of the magnitude of the day's events, volunteers are needed. To volunteer to help with the supper, call Kay Winslow at 426-8178. To volunteer to help with parking, call Sid Eley at 426-5016. To volunteer to help with gates or concessions, call Susan Harris at 426-5307.

## Shaffer warns drivers to slow down in Winfall

Police chief to enforce speed reduction plan

If it were a country song, David Shaffer's theme would be, "What Part of the Speed Limit Sign Don't You Understand?"

The Winfall chief said last week that drivers are again speeding through Winfall, oblivious to the 35 and 45 mile per hour zones that run through most of the town.

The campaign is not the first Shaffer has waged against speeders. Several months ago, the chief said he had issued warning tickets to try to control the speeding problem without having to write tickets. But Shaffer's nice-guy tactic didn't slow traffic down, so he ordered a supply of ticket books and began giving people reminders that hit them in the bank account. Shaffer wrote dozens of tickets and finally saw traffic slow down. With the slow down came a 60 percent decrease in the town's accident rate.

According to Shaffer, speeding is the number one factor

leading to fatal crashes in North Carolina and is the most frequently-cited moving violation in the immediate area, most speed-related crashes occur on urban streets, Shaffer said, while a large percentage of fatal speed-related crashes occur on rural roads.

Another speed problem is drivers' failure to understand that posted speed limits represent the maximum speed drivers should travel under ideal conditions, Shaffer said. Drivers should reduce speed to compensate for road conditions such as rain, heavy traffic or limited visibility. Citations can be issued for speeding even if a driver is not exceeding the posted speed limit, if the driver doesn't slow down to compensate for road conditions.

Shaffer said drivers are responsible for reducing the risk of an accident by reducing speed, regardless of the speed limit.

The chief said drivers cited for speeding get to pay fines, have points assessed against drivers licenses, and in some cases pay increased insurance premiums.

### Weekend Weather

Thursday	Friday	Saturday
High 70s	High 70s	High 70s
Low 50s	Low 50s	Low 50s
Chance of rain	Chance of rain	Partly cloudy