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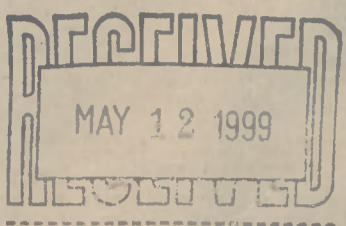
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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Hertford pulls plug on Coles' request for power

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
 Editor

An irate Hertford woman blasted the town Monday night for not approving her plan to get her electricity turned on.

Cathy Coles, who said she is a diabetic on dialysis, said she has been without electricity for 3 years. She said town manager John Christensen told her she would have to pay the \$1,800 she owes the town before the town will turn on electric power at her current home on King Street. She cannot afford to do that on her \$500 per month income, she said.

Coles told council she had offered to pay \$50 per month plus the current bill if the town would agree to turn on power at her residence. That is all she can afford to do, she said.

Coles also said that Christensen had accused her of meter tampering at her former residence in Meads Mobile Home Park. Pointing her finger and raising her voice, Coles said if Christensen could prove the allegation that she had tampered with the meter, he would have had her arrested.

Council asked Christensen to review the case from the town's records. The manager said that Coles had utilities when she lived in the mobile home park. Her bill got over \$500 delinquent and was turned off. It was turned back on with her promise to catch up the past due amount. She did not catch the bill up and in fact, the amount she owed rose to around \$1,800, he said. The power was turned off for good in January 1997. Coles subsequently moved to King Street.

The meter was checked at the time Coles moved and it was discovered that the meter had been tampered with to allow unmetered power to go through it.

Christensen said Coles has made no attempt to pay on the bill since January 1997. Because she failed to honor the agreement to repay her delinquent account and in light of the fact that the meter at her former residence had been tampered with, Christensen said the town should abide by its policy in dealing with Coles. The current policy would require payment in full of the delinquent bill including fees for disconnection and tampering and a deposit in the amount of two months' average bill at the current residence.

The manager said the town has worked with numerous electric customers who receive an unusually high bill they are unable to pay. He said the town has set up a repayment contract with customers to allow them to continue to receive electricity. Customers must pay the current bill plus a set amount on the past due portion. If the contract is not honored, Christensen said the

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Officials impressed with county

Cooperation, history give area edge for federal funding

By JEREMY DESPOSITO
 The Daily Advance

Hertford's community cooperation and its extensive history make it a good site for development of the heritage tourism trade, federal officials agreed last week.

Two weeks after a visit from state tourism agencies, the county was visited again last week by several federal officials as well as by state Secretary of Commerce Rick Carlisle.

Thursday's tour was part of the Northeastern North Carolina Heritage Tourism Initiative, a plan to develop historic corridors in the area.

Along the introductory tour of the Perquimans area was the 1824 Winslow House on Front Street behind the county courthouse. There, the group



PHOTO BY SUSAN HARRIS

A delegation of federal and state officials enjoy pork barbecue and fixings on the lawn of Lucille Winslow overlooking the sparkling Perquimans River, along with locals who have worked on the heritage tourism plan. The officials said they were impressed with what they saw and look forward to working with the area on economic development through heritage tourism growth.

learned of the town's Civil War connections in addition to enjoying barbecue on the lawn overlooking the river.

Carlisle was impressed when shown a hole in the rear wall of the house that was put there by Union shrapnel during the war. The shrapnel is still saved from a battle on Dec. 10, 1863, when Union gunboats were shelling Hertford.

Carlisle said tourism and economic development go hand-in-hand in the Albemarle area.

"I've been making a lot of trips to Northeast North Carolina late," Carlisle said. "It's really been a time when a lot of great things are going on in this area. This initiative to promote heritage tourism links up with broader economic development efforts."

Carlisle said he was impressed with how well heritage tourism fits the area.

"Heritage tourism is a natural for his area," he said. "I don't think you'll see a better place when it comes to the number and quality of historic Please see tourism, page 7



PHOTO BY SAM WOLFE

Helen Hunter helps her husband, Baseball Hall of Famer, Jim "Catfish" Hunter, adjust his cap during a ceremony honoring Hunter at Memorial Stadium Saturday afternoon. An estimated 2,500 people gathered in Hertford to support Hunter and kick off an ALS Foundation in his honor.

3,000 on hand for Hunter Day

By SUSAN R. HARRIS
 Editor

It was a day of fun. It was a day of honor. It was a day of great emotion. It was a day many people will not soon forget.

Almost 3,000 people flocked to Veterans Memorial Field on the campus of Perquimans High School Saturday to honor Jim "Catfish" Hunter during the 19th annual Old Timers Day. This year's Old Timers Day served as the kickoff for the Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation, an organization started by Hunter's friends and family to fund amyotrophic lateral sclerosis research and education.

It was fitting that the ceremony honoring Hunter took place just behind the mound upon which he began to build a career that would lead to his induction into the Baseball Hall of Fame. And it was certainly fitting that the tribute was held on May 8, the 31st anniversary of the day Hunter pitched his perfect game for

the Kansas City A's against the Minnesota Twins. At the end of the ceremony, a tape of the final outs Hunter pitched was played to a hushed audience. One of the day's guests, Jim Pagliaroni, was Hunter's catcher on that historic day.

During the day which started with a 6:30 a.m. prayer breakfast, Hunter was able to visit with some of his closest friends from both eras of his baseball career — high school and professional.

In one of the day's most touching moments, Hunter's grandson threw out the ceremonial first pitches as his famous grandfather coached him. Taylor called out "Play ball!" before the 1999 Varsity Vs. 1963 Old Timers State Championship Team, plus help from some former pros and PCHS stand-outs from later years.

Final totals of funds raised with the day's events were not available at press time. The silent auction alone raised over \$11,000.

More coverage on page 7

Business group raises money for 4th of July fireworks fund

The dark skies over Missing Mill Park last Independence Day broke from local tradition of gathering with family and friends to watch a time-honored light show.

The Historic Hertford Business Association looks to light up the night once again this July 4. The group is sponsoring Pig-Out in Perquimans: Dinner and Music on the Courthouse Green on May 21 as part of the Perquimans Spring Weekend.

Pork barbecue and fixings will be \$8 per plate. Diners can enjoy live entertainment on

the courthouse lawn, browse through the shops until 8 p.m. and review the PAL Gallery Show. All proceeds from the event will benefit the fireworks fund. Downtown businesses have tickets.

Pig-Out kicks off a weekend filled with activities. Some of the county's jewel historic structures will be on tour Saturday and Sunday. The self-guided tour meanders through the county's townships and is co-sponsored by Preservation North Carolina and the Perquimans County Restoration Association.

Tickets are \$20 and are good for both days.

The annual PCRA garden party is set for Saturday evening on the grounds of Riverside Plantation, an 1813 dwelling on beautiful grounds. This elegant affair features a delectable menu and the charm of the Old South. Tickets are \$20. Proceeds benefit PCRA's efforts to promote cultural heritage and preserve the 18th century character of the Newbold-White House.

Call the Newbold-White House at 426-7567 for weekend detail.

Weekend Weather

Thursday
 High: 70s Low: 50s
 Partly Cloudy

Friday
 High: 70s Low: 50s
 Partly Cloudy

Saturday
 High: 70s Low: 50s
 Partly Cloudy