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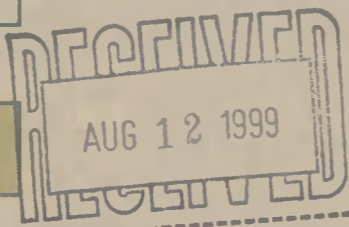
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August 12, 1999

Vol. 67, No. 31 Hertford, North Carolina 27944



THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

Hunter's condition critical after fall

WILL SULLIVAN
 The Daily Advance

Hertford native and Nall of Fame pitcher Jimmy "Catfish" Hunter is in critical condition at Pitt County Memorial Hospital after suffering a head injury in a fall at his home Sunday evening.

The 53-year-old Hunter, who was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, or Lou Gehrig's disease, last November, was admitted at Pitt Sunday night with what a hospital spokesman termed "a small bleed in the head." He was placed in serious condition.

Things took a turn for the worse overnight Monday, and Hunter's condition was upgraded to critical, the most severe status. He was still in critical condition at presstime.

"We just need everybody to keep him in your prayers," said Hunter's wife, Helen, who was reached at the hospital Tuesday morning. "We need everybody's prayers right now, and we need them strong."

Helen Hunter said her husband was to undergo more testing Tuesday.

Childhood friend Charles Woodard said Hunter suffered the fall around 5:30 p.m. Sunday.

"He was outside seeing off a friend and was going back up the steps to his house when his feet got tangled," said Woodard, who owns Woodard's Pharmacy. "He just fell backward and his head."

According to Woodard, Hunter was rushed to Chowan Hospital in Edenton for a CAT scan before being transferred to Pitt later Sunday night.

Woodard said there was some internal bleeding, but most was external.

"He was bleeding (mostly) outside of his head, so that's a good sign," said Woodard. "That relieves the pressure on the head. It would be even bigger trouble if there was more internal bleeding."

The injury is the latest in a string of setbacks for Hunter, who has drawn widespread attention since his courageous battle against the debilitating Lou Gehrig's disease began nine months ago.

Please see HUNTER, page 9

Eley, Haste vie for Hertford mayor

Winfall lacks candidates for full board

From Staff Reports

Hertford voters will have choices at the polls in November, while Winfall doesn't have enough candidates to fill the seats up for reelection.

Former Hertford councilman T. Erie Haste Jr. filed last week for the mayor's job. He will face present councilman Sid Eley in the two-way race.

Haste, 55, owner of Hertford Hardware Store, said his background includes nearly 20 years as a town councilman, as well as serving on the Coastal Resources Commission for 22 years, 10 of those years as vice

chairman. "After much deliberation and thinking back over the 20 years (I've served), I miss being involved day to day," Haste said.

Haste said the responsibilities of the mayor and council extend beyond city and county limits. He added that changes are taking place in and around Hertford that he feels he could bring experience to. He likened the operation of the town to the operation of a business.

Eley, a middle school teacher, is in the midst of his second term on council. If Eley is elected, council will by statute choose his replacement. If not, he will continue to serve as a councilman for two more years. He also serves as fire chief.

Running for council seats

are incumbent Carlton Davenport and challengers JoAnn Morris and Dan Daneker. Davenport was appointed by council to fill the unexpired term of former councilman W.D. "Bill" Cox. This is his first election. Davenport is one of the town's representatives on the Economic Development Commission.

Morris and Daneker have not served on the council, but neither are new to its workings. Morris attends almost every council meeting, while Daneker has also attended many meetings. Both have been outspoken in their opinions about town government operations.

Morris, 65, is retired from the Juvenile Services Division of the Administrative Office of

the Courts. She is the lead member of a committee appointed by the town to oversee restoration of trees in the park on Academy Square.

Her key concerns about the town's future include the ongoing expansion of the sewage plant and extension of lines to the commerce park, as well as the affect electric deregulation will have on the town.

Daneker, 56, could not be reached for comment.

While voters in Hertford will make choices for representation of the board, Winfall voters won't have that option.

Mayor Fred Yates, 63, is running unopposed. He said when the filing period opened that he intended to run to finish projects he helped initiate, such as the sewer installation.

Yates began his career when

appointed to fill the unexpired term of his wife, Shirley, when she was elected to the board of county commissioners. He was also appointed to the mayor's seat to fill the term of Bill Bartlett. He then ran and won in his own right.

Kenneth Rominger was the only candidate to file for the two available seats on Winfall's town board. Rominger was appointed postmaster in Winfall earlier this year. He became involved in the community and town through volunteer work, and had indicated he wanted to take an increasingly active role in the town.

Neither Winfall attorney Hackney High or Elections Supervisor Eula Forbes could be reached for comment on how the second seat will be filled.

Divers study turtle log

SUSAN R. HARRIS
 Editor

The famous turtle log in the Perquimans River is just that - a log.

Divers with the N.C. Department of Cultural Resources' underwater archaeology team studied the famed sunning spot for local turtles last week. Led by Richard Lawrence, head of the underwater archaeology unit, the team took their boat, Snap Dragon, out to the site and spent time diving around the log. They determined that the turtle log is a tree log.

According to LuAnne Pendergraft, Development Officer assigned to the Perquimans County Restoration Association, some locals had heard that the turtle log was a beam from a ship sunk during the Civil War.



SUBMITTED PHOTO

Divers with a state underwater archaeology team study the area around Perquimans' famed turtle log to determine the origins of the log. It appears to be a felled tree.

While that is not the case, the divers did find ballast stones and a frame and plank near the log which might indicate some sort of shipwreck or ship sinking at some point in history, Pendergraft said.

Because the turtle log, which is just off the curve in the causeway, is such an integral part of local history and points of interest, Pendergraft

would like to hear from anyone who may know when the log first appeared in the river. She can be reached at 426-5123.

While in Hertford, the divers also explored the area directly in front of the Newbold-White House. Early records of the inventory of Abraham Sanders, builder of the house indicate ownership of a large sailing vessel. This and other

records led some historians to speculate that a pier and/or wharf might have extended into the river from the property.

Divers found no evidence of a dock, but said that considering shore erosion over the past 250 years, there could have been a dock further out into the river. The team suggested further research.

PCHS sheds low-performing designation

High school growth rated exemplary

Perquimans High School shed its low-performing status last week when the state Department of Public Instruction released its findings based on the ABCs accountability model.

The school made tremendous gains in end-of-course test scores through six-weeks testing, integrated course work and more rigorous curriculum. The results of the concentrated effort during the past school year were remarkable as the school improved test performance by over 20 percentage points.

In 1997-98, PCHS was

deemed low performing with only 35.8 percent of its students scoring at or above grade level on end-of-course tests. With the emphasis on improvement in 1998-99, that percentage rose to 57.9 percent, deemed exemplary growth by the state.

While the high school showed the most dramatic gains, all Perquimans County Schools were graded exemplary by the ABCs standards.

Perquimans Middle School did not meet its expectations in 1997-98 with 64.8 percent of students scoring at or above grade level on end-of-course tests. Last year, the school exceeded expected growth and moved to exemplary with 74.9 percent grade level or above scores.

Both Perquimans Central and Hertford Grammar School met expected growth in 1997-98, with 60.4 percent of stu-

dents scoring at or above grade level on year-end tests. This year, 64.4 percent of students who took the end of grade tests scored at or above grade level.

These schools, also, used practice testing and more rigorous standards to improve scores.

Schools superintendent Gregory Todd attributed the system's growth to dedicated teachers and students committing themselves to reaching higher standards and test performance. Todd added that with continued commitment and support from parents, students and staff, he believes scores will continue to improve.

Because each school met exemplary growth, all certified staff members and instructional teacher assistants will receive performance bonuses from the state.

Todd earns performance bonus

A year after coming to Perquimans, superintendent Gregory T. Todd was rewarded by the school board for performance.

Todd received a \$2,000 bonus under the terms of his contract after his annual review, which evaluated and rated his performance in several areas, including meeting goals set by the board and Todd. The superintendent was rated above average in several areas, including board, personnel and Please see TODD, page 9

School begins Aug. 24

SUSAN R. HARRIS
 Editor

Teachers are no longer counting the days until they return to the classroom. They sat in their desks Monday. Now educators are marking time until students come back on Aug. 24.

Each school has made arrangements to notify parents of teacher assignments and open houses:

- Perquimans Central (grades K-2) - Kindergarten students have already received screening cards and room assignments. First and second grade parents will be notified by mail or phone this week. An open house is set for Thursday, Aug. 19, 6:30-8 p.m.

- Dwayne Stallings is now principal at Central. Stallings served as assistant principal at the high school for five years before transferring to Central.

- Hertford Grammar (grades 3-5) - Letters with room and bus assignments as well as supply lists should arrive this week. The school's open house is set for 6:30-8 p.m. on Aug. 19. Edward Williams is principal at the school.

- Perquimans Middle (grades 6-8) - Letters went out last week with core teacher assignments and supply lists. Any student who has not received a letter should call Kristy Boyce at 426-7355. Open house will be Aug. 19, 6-7:30 p.m. School principal is Anne White.

- Perquimans High (grades 9-12) - Sophomores, juniors and seniors may pick up schedules Aug. 12 and 13, 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Schedule changes may be made Aug. 16-18. Freshmen may pick up schedules during the Freshman Orientation at 5 p.m. on Wednesday, Aug. 18. At 6:30, there will be a Senior Project/College Planning Orientation for all seniors and their parents. There will be a floating open house on the same date from 5-7:30 p.m. for all students and parents. Questions about these sessions should be directed to John Wells, guidance counselor, at 426-5778. Elaine Pritchard is school principal.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
 High: 80s
 Low: 70s
 MOSTLY SUNNY

FRIDAY
 High: 80s
 Low: 70s
 MOSTLY SUNNY

SATURDAY
 High: 90s
 Low: 70s
 PARTLY CLOUDY