

Back to school isn't just for kids, page 3

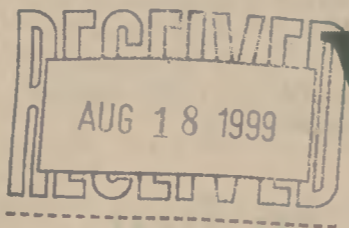
Pirate teams prepare to play, page 7

School bus safety, page 8

Hot cars danger to kids, page 2

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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

Winfall may fill seat with write-in

Elections board does not extend filing period

JEREMY DESPOSITO  
 The Daily Advance

Indicating its pessimism that a second candidate would come forward to file for one of Winfall's two Town Council seats, the Perquimans County Board of Elections elected Friday to keep the filing period closed.

"Anybody interested enough would've already filed," said board chairman Paul Smith, explaining the board's decision.

The fact that no one had even contacted the board about re-opening the filing period made the board's decision even easier, Smith said. A letter will be sent to Winfall Town Council stating the board's decision, he added.

Under state law, the elections board could have re-opened the filing period for up to five days because not enough candidates filed for Winfall's two open council seats during the regular month-long filing period that ended on Aug. 6.

Only newcomer Kenneth Rominger filed for one of the two at-large seats. Incumbents Jake Chesson and Carol Cooper did not seek re-election.

The second seat could be filled, however, by a write-in candidate who polled the most write-in votes on election day.

Smith said he personally wasn't aware of anyone interested in running as a write-in candidate. But he said he knows a number of Winfall residents who would make good town council members.

The election board is confident that a write-in candidate will surface on election day.

"I feel like we'll probably have a lot of names," Smith said. "There will be some write-ins."

Smith said this is the first time since he became elections board chairman in 1992 that not enough candidates filed for the seats open in an election.

## McDonald's raises money for ALS

JEREMY DESPOSITO  
 The Daily Advance

With Jim "Catfish" Hunter scheduled to be on hand, Saturday's fund-raiser for Hunter's ALS foundation at McDonald's was supposed to be a big event.

Because he fell 10 days ago and had to be hospitalized, Hunter couldn't attend Saturday's fund-raiser. But the event was big just the same.

By Saturday afternoon, the Hertford McDonald's was on pace to smash its previous one-day sales record - every dime of it was headed to the Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation.

Hunter's friends set up the foundation earlier this year, shortly after the former baseball great was diagnosed with amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, the same crippling disease that killed Hall of Famer Lou Gehrig.

In morning sales alone, the Hertford McDonald's grossed approximately \$1,000 and served close to 300 people. An ordinary Saturday brings in 200-250 people and generates about \$800 in sales, swing manager Donna Lane said.

"It's been real busy," Lane said. "(Business) hasn't stopped."

Swing manager Nicole Lightfoot agreed.

"This morning has been outrageous," she said. "It's been planned for a month. (Hunter) was supposed to be here himself, but..."

While the events went on in his honor, Hunter was still listed in critical condition at Pitt County Memorial Hospital.

"He's basically the same: still alert and following some commands," a patient care coordinator said.

A telephone recording set up to field the hundreds of calls from well-wishers flooding the hospital the past week said: "the Hunter family expresses appreciation for all prayers and kindnesses that people have offered."

In addition to donating proceeds from the entire day's sales - from 6 a.m.-11 p.m. - to Hunter's ALS Foundation, the store also gave away free balloons, painted kids' faces and hosted visits by McDonald's land character Grimace and stock car racer Dalford Briley.

Shalonda Leary and Tynesha White



Above: Marquis Rogers gives "Grimace," a McDonald's Land character, a hug outside the McDonald's in Hertford Saturday. Marquis' pal, Christopher Jones, looks on. All sales at the McDonald's Saturday will go to the foundation.

brought their children to McDonald's for lunch, but neither was aware their money was going to fight ALS.

"(The kids) wanted McDonald's, so we came out," said White, adding that she was considering returning with the children for the afternoon events.

Woody Bolz had seen the fundraiser advertised on a flyer and happened to be passing through with his son, Bryce, 9. His step-son, Doug, has a baseball autographed by Hunter.

"(The fund-raiser) is pretty neat," Bolz said. "I'm sorry about his falling. I'm glad

we stopped."

Carole Dail and 11-year-old granddaughter, Cassie, had several reasons for attending the fund-raiser.

"(Cassie) wanted face paintings, and my granddaughter works here," Dail said. "And of course, we came out to support (Hunter)."

"Whether it'd be Catfish or anybody, it's a very good cause when you get a disease that's not yet curable. It's a shame it has to be a native from here (that has it). I'm sure he's done things for people that we don't even know (about)."

Hunter still critical, but making slow progress

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
 Editor

The mood in Hertford has been intense since last Sunday evening when Jimmy Hunter fell and was hospitalized with critical head injuries. The first question many residents asked upon seeing friends was, "Have you heard from Jimmy today?"

Monday evening, Hunter's pastor, the Rev. Keith Vaughan, said the Hall of Fame pitcher and Perquimans native is much improved. Vaughan had just returned from visiting Hunter and his family in Greenville, where Hunter was still listed in critical condition in the intensive care unit of Pitt Memorial Hospital.

Hunter still has assistance with his breathing, and continues to respond to verbal commands and his family. Vaughan said Hunter's progress is expected to continue very slowly. He will probably require some type of rehabilitation before being discharged from the hospital.

As he is still in ICU, Hunter can have no visitors other than immediate family. At times over the past week, there have been so many people at the hospital to see the Hunter family that some have had to wait in the downstairs reception area, Vaughan said.

Because there have been so many calls, the hospital switchboard will no longer transfer calls for the family.

Vaughan said the best way to send best wishes to Hunter and his family is through cards to the hospital. About 100 cards arrived Monday, and Vaughan said that is about the average that has poured in each day. Each family member can read and appreciate the cards sent, and they can also be shared with Hunter as he improves, making cards the best way to communicate with the family, Vaughan said.

Hunter sustained his injuries on Aug. 8 when he fell backwards off the bottom step at his home. He was transported by ambulance to Chowan Hospital before being transferred to Pitt Memorial. Pitt confirmed that Hunter was bleeding in his brain. He was initially listed in serious condition, but some setbacks early on Aug. 10 caused his condition to be downgraded to critical. He was placed on a respirator and was reportedly unconscious early last week.

The deluge of inquiries about his condition, as well as incorrect information being reported, caused the family to turn to Vaughan to release written information twice last week. Both press releases indicated that Hunter was in critical condition, but was responsive. The family requested that all inquiries be directed to either Vaughan or the hospital, although Hunter's wife, Helen, did make statements thanking people for their support and encouragement, and asking for continued prayer.

The family still asks for prayer support.

## New cemetery road sparks debate

SUSAN R. HARRIS  
 Editor

A discussion about a dying town fire truck sparked debate about problems with a cemetery road when Hertford Town Council met last Monday night.

"How did we get from a fire truck to the cemetery road?" asked vice mayor Billy Winslow, who added, "Let's take one issue at a time. Let's not be mixing issues here."

The common link to the seemingly unrelated topics was a discussion prior to the meeting between Mayor John Beers and town manager John Christensen about council being more decisive.

Councilman and fire chief Sid Eley reported to council that the 1969 pumper did not pass a state pumping test. The 750-gallon per minute pumper will only pump 450-500 gallons per minute. Eley gave council information he had obtained about trying to fix the truck and replacing it during the administrative concerns portion of the meeting.

Then Beers said council should make a decision regarding the pumper. He said council should take action when issues are brought before the board. Christensen responded

that he asked Eley to share the test results and other information during the meeting just to make council aware of the situation. He added that with the pumper the town bought in 1996 and other equipment in the county, he feels the town does not have to replace the 1969 pumper now.

Winslow said it was good that council had that information so that council had time to discuss it in a work session and decide what action might be needed.

Beers then reiterated that the council should make a decision. He said he and Christensen had talked, and that council should make a decision and clarify that decision.

Christensen then responded that the discussion he had with Beers over being decisive was sparked by events regarding the road put in Cedar Wood Cemetery in June.

The town manager said Larry Swindell of Swindell Funeral Home had complained to the board earlier in the summer about the new road in Cedar Wood Cemetery, which is owned and maintained by the town. Christensen said typically he handles day-to-day operations of the town, and that council sets policy. When it comes to an operations issue,

Christensen said he generally gathers information and makes a decision. He said he did make a decision about the ditch Swindell complained about in the cemetery. Christensen said he recommended to council that no action be taken because the difficulties Swindell had were not severe enough for Christensen to want to fix the ditches the town had just paid to install. Christensen said no action was taken by the board on his recommendation.

Swindell called Christensen on Aug. 4, the Wednesday before council met and wanted the town to dig a grave, Christensen said. Christensen said he refused. Swindell then called several councilmen, Christensen said, and requested that Christensen be fired. The situation prompted Christensen to speak with Beers about council not acting on Christensen's recommendations.

"I feel like this board needs to be more decisive and I told him so," Christensen said. He added that the board needs to make decisions, not "hang (Christensen) out to dry." He said indecisiveness means the board sometimes makes emotional decisions. The board should either approve or override his decisions, Christensen

said.

Swindell was allowed to share his side of the story. The Hertford funeral director said he came to council in June complaining that the new road bank in the cemetery is extreme. Swindell said the steep embankment makes it impossible for him to dig a grave with his equipment and also for his truck, when loaded, to climb the embankment without damaging its underside. It is also difficult for older people who attend funerals to step up, he said, which could lead to lawsuits in the event of a fall.

Swindell said it wasn't in the minutes of council's June meeting, but that council decided that Swindell, Christensen and Russell Hurdle, the contractor who built the road, were to meet to work out a solution to the ditch problem. No meeting between the three was held.

On Aug. 4, Swindell said he called Christensen on the telephone because he needed to dig a grave and still could not because there had been nothing done to the grade of the ditch. He said Christensen told him there was no problem and that Christensen wasn't going to take action.

Please see Road, page 3

### WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
 High: 80s  
 Low: 70s  
 Mostly Sunny

FRIDAY  
 High: 80s  
 Low: 70s  
 Mostly Sunny

SATURDAY  
 High: 90s  
 Low: 70s  
 Partly Cloudy