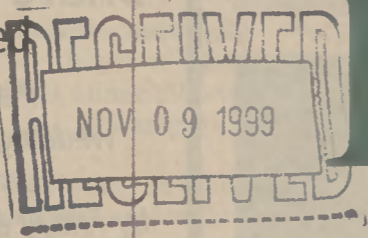


12 013165 11/10/2000 \*C20  
 PERQUIMANS COUNTY LIBRARY  
 110 W ACADEMY ST  
 HERTFORD, NC 27944

Byrum sprinting at Barton  
 Page 7

Local volunteers honored  
 Page 2

Schools celebrate  
 Red Ribbon Week  
 Page 7



# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

35 cents

November 11, 1999

Vol. 67, No. 43 Hertford, North Carolina 27944

## Winfall may have misused Powell Bill funds

**Audit will tell if state Powell Bill funds misused**

**JEREMY DESPOSITO**  
 The Daily Advance

An audit of the town's finances for fiscal year 1998-99 should determine whether Winfall officials misused state monies appropriated to build, improve and maintain town

streets. The audit, being conducted by Mason L. Spruill, an accounting firm based in Elizabeth City, is still not complete, Winfall officials said. Spruill was not available for comment last week.

Questions about Winfall's use of state Powell Bill monies arose in April when then town attorney Melanie James resigned.

"One issue needs to be addressed by your new attorney immediately," James' res-

ignation letter, dated April 20th, states. "The discussion during the April (Town) Council meetings suggests that Powell Bill funds may have been spent in an impermissible manner."

"...The Powell Bill (law) contains restrictions on what the funds may be used for. Your new attorney needs to carefully review the records to determine if the statutory restrictions have been violated."

Reached for comment, James refused to say why she

had included the warning in her resignation letter.

Current Winfall Attorney Hackney High also declined to comment on James' warning or the prospect that Powell Bill monies might have been mis-spent. But High did say Winfall's policies are "in disarray," and that he is in the process of organizing them.

Under state law, each town and city in North Carolina receives monies each year from the N.C. Department of Transportation's Program

Development Branch known as Powell Bill funds.

The allocations are made to help municipalities pay for the construction and upkeep of their streets and are based on a town's population and the number of miles of road it maintains.

If a town decides to accept Powell Bill funds, it must abide by several restrictions on their use. For example, Powell Bill funds can be used to pay for mowing along and within street rights-of-way but not for,

say, mowing around a town hall building or town-owned cemetery. The funds can also be used to remove "snow, sand, soil or debris resulting from natural causes" such as storms or natural disasters, but cannot be used to pay for the normal collection of garbage, refuse or debris.

According to Winfall town records recently obtained by The Daily Advance, there have been occasions during the past Please see Powell Bill, page 9

## Holiday events planned

**SUSAN R. HARRIS**  
 Editor

The Chamber of Commerce selected "Pitching a Perfect Christmas" as the theme of the parade which will move through Hertford on Dec. 4. The parade is dedicated to the memory of Jim "Catfish" Hunter. His family will serve as grand marshalls.

The theme was chosen after being submitted for consideration anonymously. A note with the submission requested that if it was chosen the funds be donated to Hunter's ALS Foundation.

Parade entry forms are available at the Chamber office, and should be submitted by Nov. 26. Call 426-5657 for information or to volunteer.

During the parade, booths in a courthouse green food court will be available to church, business and civic organizations. Call Gay Murray at Chimney Masters at 426-1426 for information.

After the parade, the BPW/hertford Christmas tree will be lit on the courthouse green. Dozier's Florist has forms to purchase lights for \$1 each in honor or in memory of a loved one. Deadline for light purchase is Nov. 30.

The annual Extension Homemaker Christmas Ramble is set for Thursday, Dec. 2, 6:30-9 p.m. The tour will feature the homes of Ralph and Lisa Hollowell, Todd and Anna Winslow, Thomas and Linda Morris (Blue Door Gallery), and Jane McMahon's Covent Garden Inn, as well as the Belvidere Community Building, where refreshments will be served.

Tickets are available in advance and at all homes on the tour. For information, call 426-7697.

A shuttle van will be available. For information, call the Senior Center at 426-5404.

The Newbold-White House will host an open house on Dec. 16, 6-8 p.m. The house will be filled with 18th century decorations, music and treats. A tree in the visitor's center will be adorned with ornaments made by fourth graders. The event is free.

Dates for school programs are: HGS, Dec. 2; Central, Dec. 9; PCHS, Dec. 12; and PCMS, Dec. 16.

PCHS principal Elaine Pritchard also reminds parents that exams will be given Dec. 15-17 this year.

## State runners-up



Daily Advance photo

The scene was heartwrenching Saturday as the Lady Pirates realized that their dream season was coming to a disappointing end. The awesome Perquimans squad was defeated by a bigger, more experienced Hendersonville team in three sets.

## Lady Pirates are 2nd in state

It was a teary, disappointing loss when the Lady Pirates fell in three games, 15-1, 15-10, 15-6, in the state 1-A championship match Saturday at Reynolds Coliseum.

"It was our only loss of the season. Unfortunately it had to come today," Perquimans coach Carolyn Rogers said after the game. "Our play today wasn't really indicative of how we played all season long. This is our first time here, and I think we were a little nervous in the beginning."

The drama of playing in the N.C. State gym in the biggest game of their careers had the Lady Pirates obviously nervous. They played tentatively early on, and were overwhelmed with the play of three-time state MVP Molly Pyles, whose kills traveled over the net like bullets.

"I think we just fell apart when we saw how hard she hit the ball," said senior Mindy

Roberson. "We've never faced anyone like her, so we couldn't practice for her. (Losing) 15-1 in game one surprised us a little bit, but I think we settled down some after that."

Indeed, Perquimans put up a good fight in game two, owning an 8-5 lead until Pyles turned her blistering kill into a bruising serve and led her team to a 10-15 advantage. Even when Hendersonville had a 14-9 lead, the Lady Pirates refused to bend, forcing the 'Cats to lose the serve three times before finally claiming that final point.

In the final game, when the Lady Bearcats came out hot and went up 9-1, it would have been easy for the exhausted underdogs to roll over and play dead. But that wasn't what the Lady Pirates did. Instead, they went on one final roll, adding five to the scoreboard before Hendersonville turned on the power again.

For Hendersonville, it was the third straight state title, and the fifth in this decade.

For Perquimans, it was a new standard in high school volleyball. The match was the first time a Lady Pirates team has made it to the state finals. After losing four starters from last season's regional runner-up team, Perquimans didn't get much pre-season attention. But once the team took the court, it wasn't long before the hard-working crew had lots of attention. A second consecutive undefeated regular season led to the team's first conference tournament title. From there, the Lady Pirates simply dominated the first four rounds of the state playoffs.

"Nobody, not even people at our school, expected us to get this far," Roberson said. "It just goes to show how hard we've worked to get here. I think we even surprised ourselves."

## Chesson tapped to lead Hunter ALS Foundation

From Staff Reports

Perquimans native Parker Chesson was tapped last month as president of the Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation.

Joining Chesson on the executive committee are vice president Tommy Harrell, treasurer Charles Woodard, secretary Bill Newbern, Hunter's widow, Helen, Wayne Howell, Mark Reiman and David Finley. Other members of the Foundation's Board of Directors are Ben Berry, Jack Brinn, Reggie Jackson, Billy Nixon, Jim Pagliaroni, Jeffrey Rosenfeld, George Steinbrenner, and Keith Vaughan.

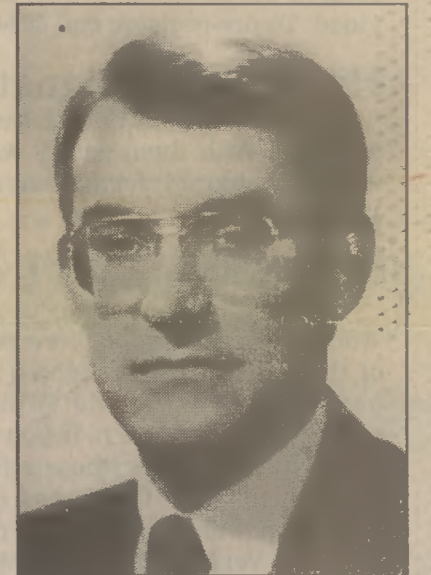
The board is a mix of Hunter's friends and baseball associates, as well as those he met after his diagnosis with ALS, amyotrophic lateral sclerosis.

Chesson, chairman of the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina, was former College of The Albemarle president and a state administrator with the community college system.

Fellow officers Harrell and Woodard are childhood friends of Hunter's who remain close family friends. Harrell is a farmer in Perquimans County, while Woodard owns and operates Woodard's Pharmacy. Newbern is a neighbor of Hunter's who grew up watching his pitching magic on TV.

Members of the executive board have varied ties to the Hunter family. Howell is also a local farmer and long-time friend of Hunter and his family. Reiman is an ALS patient from Everett, Wash. To promote awareness of the disease, he sang the national anthem in all 30 major league ball parks in 1998. Finley is the son of the late Charles Finley, former owner of the Kansas City and Oakland Athletics who signed Hunter to the big leagues straight out of Perquimans High School in 1964.

Berry is a county native and chief executive officer of Gateway Bank in Elizabeth City. Brinn is also a county native, the son of a former teacher of Hunter's. He is presently a physician and administrator at the East Carolina University School of Medicine. Jackson, a Hall of Fame baseball player, was a teammate of Hunter's both in Oakland and New York. Nixon, a county native, is a physician



Parker Chesson

in Wilmington whose son plays for the Boston Red Sox. Pagliaroni hails from California and caught Hunter's perfect game in 1968. Rosenfeld is a physician in Charlotte who heads the ALS Center at Carolinas Medical Center. Steinbrenner is owner of the New York Yankees and Hunter's former boss. Vaughan is pastor of the Hunter family's church, Hertford Baptist, and was a childhood fan of Hunter's who grew close to him personally after moving to Hertford.

One of the board's first official actions was to adopt a mission statement: Through advocacy, education, fund raising, and philanthropy, the Foundation will urgently work to bring an end to amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) and provide support to those who are stricken with this brutal disease.

Please see ALS, page 9

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
 High: 69  
 Low: 44  
 PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY  
 High: 67  
 Low: 49  
 PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY  
 High: 68  
 Low: 49  
 PARTLY CLOUDY