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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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County man charged with sex abuse

CHIP ROMANOVICH
The Daily Advance

A Perquimans County man was arrested Dec. 8 and charged with 18 counts of sexual abuse alleged to have occurred over four decades.

The charges resulted from allegations involving four minor females. The suspect has admitted to sexual relations with two of the victims, investigators said.

Jack Hardy Dail, 60, of 329 Hunters Fork Road, Tyner, turned himself in to the sheriff's department after indictments against him were handed down by the grand jury, said Perquimans County Sheriff's Investigator Nate Zachary.

"His lawyer called and they made arrangements for him to turn himself in," Zachary said. "I had already interviewed him, and he had confessed to two indictments."

Dail was released after posting \$50,000 secured and \$50,000 unsecured bonds. He is reportedly represented by former district attorney H.P. Williams who is now in private practice in Elizabeth City.

Zachary said the investigation began in early September, when one of the alleged victims contacted the sheriff's department. Zachary said Dail knew the minors prior to the allegations.

Zachary said the alleged incidents took place over a period of 34 years. He was not sure if more allegations would be made.

"Cases date back as late as 1966, and the last known act was 1994 on an 11-year-old (age at that time) female," Zachary said. "He did not have (realizations) with that victim. All the females he had relations with were 12 or 13 (years old) at the time (of the alleged abuse)."

"Right now we have four confirmed victims."

Dail, until recently a Sunday school teacher with no prior criminal history, admitted to Zachary that he knew his actions were wrong.

"He told me, what he did, he knew it was wrong. He said he was young, he made mistakes."

Zachary said the alleged abuses occurred well into the victims' teen-age years. "He manipulated their minds," Zachary said.

One victim may have come forward at one point, however, Zachary said he searched sheriff's department records and was unable to find any information regarding the case.

"We did have one victim who tried to report it years ago ... nothing was ever done," he said. "It was many, many years ago, way before our administration."

Dail faces an initial court hearing Feb. 5. He was charged with one count of first degree sex offense with a child, six counts of indecent liberties with a child, and four counts of crime against nature.

SOUNDS OF THE SEASON



Kindergarteners in Pam Lothian's and Carolyn Ward's Central School classes filled Hertford with holiday music as the teachers made their annual field trip caroling through town. The students were donned in handmade holiday hats and had bells around their necks for the occasion.

Citizens fight Winfall zoning measure

SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

A standing-room only crowd made it quite clear last Wednesday that they do not want Winfall to extend its extra-jurisdictional boundaries.

At a public hearing to discuss Winfall's consideration of extending its boundaries for zoning purposes, several speakers, among them the chairman of the county commissioners, spoke against the move. Most cited fears that the boundary extension would lead to later annexation and that family farms would effectively be outlawed for the next generations.

Mayor Fred Yates tried to allay those concerns in his opening statements.

"The land is not being annexed nor is there any plan to do so in the future," he said. "This land will not be taxed by the Town of Winfall."

Later he added, "This is not a preliminary step to annexation." He said the move would allow the town to extend its planning area and have more control over growth which could affect its citizens.

The town is considering extending its jurisdiction from about 500 feet in some areas up to one mile in others. Its boundaries would extend across U.S. Highway 17 Bypass into the Old Neck Historic District and would include some waterfront developments. Yates said town officials are especially concerned about development on U.S. Highway 17.

Steve Perry and his son, Scott, both signed up to speak at the hearing. Steve Perry, who lives and farms in the proposed extension, said he had spoken with an attorney who told him that this type of zoning leads to annexation about 90 percent of the time.

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Plane crash in Nicanor kills Florida man

From staff reports

A Florida man died when his twin-engine airplane crashed in a field near Turnpike Road last Thursday.

Gordon Montgomery, 76, a resident of John's Island, Fla., died when his plane went down on what was apparently a familiar flight from Florida to the Edenton Municipal Airport.

Investigators still have no explanation for what caused the accident, although law officers and officials with the Federal Aviation Administration and National Transportation Safety Board spent at least two days last week at the site.

Parts of the blue and white Piper sank 5 feet in the ground in the open field near the Perquimans-Pasquotank border near the mouth of the Dismal Swamp. The crash site is in the county's Nicanor Township.

Perquimans County Sheriff Eric Tilley said his department received a call at 2:30 p.m. from a hunter reporting that the plane was grounded and on fire near a drainage ditch.

Firefighters from Perquimans County and the Newland Fire Department extinguished the flames with



A Florida man died when his blue and white Piper went down in a field near Turnpike Road last Thursday. The cause of the accident is still unknown.

foam. Little red flags littered the area, marking the remains of the victim.

"We know there was one person (on board)," Tilley said shortly after the crash. "Every red flag you see is a body part."

Larry Swindell of Swindell Funeral Home assisted with identifying the remains, and two ambulances were on the

scene. Tilley said Tuesday that Montgomery's remains were released for shipment to his family Monday afternoon. The remains were first autopsied at the medical examiner's office in Greenville.

Tilley said he received notice around 3 p.m. from the Edenton airport to be on the

lookout for a small blue and white plane headed north from Florida. The plane was reportedly scheduled to land at the Chowan County airport, but had been lost on radar.

Montgomery had a second home in South Dartmouth, Mass., where he was headed when his plane went down.

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Hunter is Steamers' general manager

SUSAN R. HARRIS
Editor

Todd Hunter will make his living on his baseball roots.

The son of the late Hall of Fame pitcher Jim "Catfish" Hunter and former college player was named general manager of the Edenton Steamers Tuesday. The Hertford resident will have overall management responsibilities for the Steamers, a unique community-owned team.

Established for three seasons, the Steamers have drawn record crowds for the size of

the community playing at historic Hicks Field. The Steamers play in the Coastal Plain League, the summer college league named the second best wooden bat league in the nation by "Baseball America Magazine." The league is sanctioned by major league baseball and the NCAA.

"We're extremely pleased to have someone of Todd's baseball credits running the Edenton team," said Pete Bock, league president. "We certainly look forward to working with him and expect even greater results by the Steamers."

The Steamers are owned by the Edenton-Chowan Community Foundation Inc., a non-profit corporation formed in 1999 to keep the team in Edenton and have it locally owned.

The community-owned status of the Steamers is unique in baseball. Only two other teams share the distinction: the Kansas City Royals and the Memphis Redbirds. The Royals were owned by the Kansas City Community Foundation. The Redbirds, the St. Louis Cardinals' triple-A team, are owned by the Redbirds Foundation, the first non-profit in

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Todd Hunter was named general manager of the Edenton Steamers Tuesday.

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 50
Low: 37
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
High: 50
Low: 38
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
High: 42
Low: 28
PARTLY CLOUDY