

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



GET INVOLVED WITH RELAY FOR LIFE

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"News from Next Door"

SEPTEMBER 9, 2009 - SEPTEMBER 15, 2009

35 cents

Insurance chief fields questions on rates

Nixon: homeowners should get discount for safeguards in new dwellings

By Reggie Ponder
Staff Writer

Area officials peppered North Carolina's insurance chief with hard questions last week about the fairness of homeowner insurance rates

in other parts of the state at a time when coastal property owners are facing what one official called an "affordability crisis" in insurance.

The Pasquotank County Board of Commissioners hosted the meeting with

Insurance Commissioner Wayne Goodwin, which also drew commissioners and other county officials from Perquimans, Camden, Currituck, Chowan, Dare and Hyde counties. Two city councilors from Elizabeth City also at-

tended. Particularly troubling to many of the officials is the fact that residents in area counties are paying more than \$2,000 a year for the same homeowner's policy that costs a Charlotte homeowner

about \$500 a year — despite documentation that shows hard-hitting hurricanes like Fran and Hugo have caused more damage in the Raleigh and Charlotte areas than in coastal regions of the state. "Where is the fairness?"

asked Pasquotank Commissioner Lloyd Griffin, who presided over the session.

Dare County Manager Bobby Outten said Dare homeowners are paying four or

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Pitching for a cure



PERQUIMANS WEEKLY PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Helen Hunter, wife of the late baseball Hall of Famer Jimmy "Catfish" Hunter, is busy working to raise funds to find a cure for ALS. She is preparing for the annual Walk to D'Feet ALS event scheduled for Sept. 26 at Perquimans County High School.

Hunter walks to raise funds for ALS

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

To meet Helen Hunter is as reassuring as seeing a long-lost friend again.

She's warm, caring, loving, dedicated and excited about life and those who surround her. She cares about people, and the community as well. If there is anything going on in or around Hertford, chances are she's somewhere working in the background.

She tools around town in an extended cab pick-up truck, cuts grass in the hot afternoon sun in shorts and tee-shirt, babysits for the grandchildren, and cooks a homemade dinner for her three children and their offspring every Tuesday night.

She's a down home, easy-going, country-loving woman whose strong faith in God has helped sustain her and her family through difficult times in the past.

To meet Helen Hunter today, one would never know she was the wife of a national baseball legend, a man whose contractual arbitration caused him to become baseball's first big-money free agent and blaze a payment trail for baseball players in the future.

In Hertford, she's just Helen. Her late husband, the legendary pitcher Jimmy Catfish Hunter, was just Jimmy when he was home in his beloved Perquimans County. Today (Wednesday) marks the 10th anniversary of the death of Catfish Hunter, a Baseball Hall of Famer who died Sept. 9, 1999 at the age of 53 from complica-

tions of amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS) following a fall at his home.

Sitting at her kitchen table in her Hertford home, Helen is surrounded by photos and memorabilia of her husband's 15 years in the big leagues, her children, his hunting trophies, and the cause that takes up a lot of her time and dedication these days. She works diligently to help raise funds for the Jim "Catfish" Hunter ALS Foundation to hopefully one day find a cure for the disease that changed their lives back in 1998.

"He first noticed something was wrong one day when he couldn't push a shell into his shotgun," remembered Helen. Many tests and trips to various hospitals later, they received word

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Indian Summer Festival set for this Saturday

Games, entertainment, crafters, food galore

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

This year's Indian Summer Festival has something for everyone!

Crafters, vendors, games and activities for children, a car show, an array of talented entertainment, and a variety of food and drinks will keep visitors busy Saturday from 9 a.m. until 5 p.m. This marks the 28th anniversary of the festival sponsored by Historic Hertford, Inc.

This year's festival will offer a free shuttle service pro-

vided by Inter-County Public Transportation Authority (ICPTA). Watch for "Shuttle" signs and catch a ride into town at Coastal Carolina Family Practice parking lot, corner of Dobbs and Church streets, corner of Market and Covent Garden streets, Missing Mill Park parking lot on Grubb Street, and the corner of Church and Grubb streets. The route is subject to change based on attendance.

Bring the children and let them enjoy the array of activities lined up for them on the parking lot of Hertford Baptist Church. Among the fun things to do will be scaling

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Local schools receive \$1.5M IMPACT grant

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

Lightning does strike twice. In fact, when it comes to million dollar IMPACT grants, lightning has struck three times in Perquimans.

For the third year since 2003, Perquimans County Schools will receive a federally funded IMPACT grant to help provide technology for the classrooms and enhance staff development.

School officials say part of the grant will put a laptop computer in the hands of every student at Perquimans High School.

The Northeast Impact Consortium, comprised of three schools in Perquimans and one in Chowan, will receive a total of \$1,499,220. Perquimans County High School is slated to receive \$640,400, Perquimans Middle School, \$242,520, Hertford Grammar School, \$277,995, and D.F. Walker Elementary School in Chowan County will benefit from \$328,305.

At Perquimans County High School, each student will be issued a laptop computer much like students are issued text books at

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WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 80 LOW: 69
SCATTERED THUNDERSTORMS

FRIDAY
HIGH: 82 LOW: 68
SCATTERED THUNDERSTORMS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 82 LOW: 69
MOSTLY CLOUDY



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Jackson-Heard named Teacher of the Year

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

Dexter Jackson-Heard, a young man who was greatly influenced by a special life-long teacher, is the Teacher of the Year for Perquimans County Schools.

He teaches business education to about 114 students at Perquimans Middle School.

Also honored recently were the system's other Top Teachers for the year including Connie Ashley, Deborah Bonner and Jill Cohen.

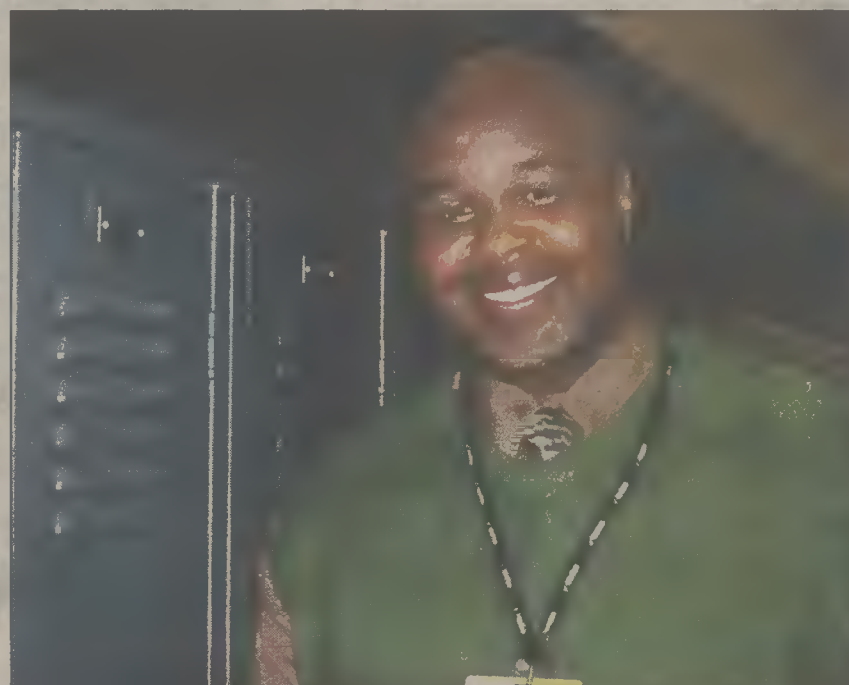
"You know, administration can do all they can do to support the schools, but when it comes right down to it, it's all about what's going on in the classroom," said Perquimans Board of Education Chairman

Wallace Nelson in making the announcement recently. "We are so excited that we have teachers who care. Maybe it will make a difference in a child's life."

Originally from Washington, D.C., Jackson-Heard graduated from the Virginia State University and has taught in Perquimans for the past three years. Prior to that, he taught in public schools located in Elizabeth City, Portsmouth, and Suffolk. He teaches Exploring Business Technology, Business Technology and Keyboarding for sixth, seventh and eighth-grade students.

While there were many factors that helped him decide to become a teacher, the greatest

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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Dexter Jackson-Heard, a business education teacher at Perquimans Middle School, recently received the Teacher of the Year award from the Perquimans County Schools.

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