

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 57, No. 8,

USPS 428-080

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, February 19, 1987

25 CENTS



Hardees is open. Pictured above are county official along with staff members of the new Hardees restaurant in Hertford. The new restaurant opened on Thursday, but the grand opening which was sponsored by the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce was held on Friday morning. Pictured left to right are: Mr. John Beers, Hertford town council, Mrs. Mary Harrell, Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Jack

Symons, Winfall town council, Mr. Bill Cox, Mayor of Hertford, Randy Keaton, county manager, and Bryant Perry, Pres. Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, Sherri Johnson, Manager, Mr. Willoughby, District Manager of Hardees, and other members of store management. The new Hardees will be open 24 hours a day.

Farm Save Day deemed successful by organizers

Farmers gathered from across North Carolina and from several other states on Saturday to take part in Farm Save Day.

The day long event brought to an end two weeks of hectic planning by Elizabeth City businessman, Eugene Meads, and his staff of volunteers. Farm Save Day was organized by Meads to call attention to the plight of our nation's farmers. Meads also hoped that farmers might come together and find some answers to common problems facing the farm community.

Originally two programs were scheduled for the day, one at 10:00 a.m., and one at 1:00 p.m., but a smaller than expected crowd prompted organizers to combine the two assemblies into one.

The program was held at the Vaughn Center on the ECSU campus, and approximately 100 farmers were on hand when the program began at 10:00 a.m.. The number grew slightly throughout the day, but came no where near organizers expectations.

Speakers for the Farm Save program included Perquimans County baseball hall of famer, Jim "Catfish" Hunter, Senator Marc Basnight, Representative Vernon James, Representative R.M. "Pete" Thompson, and others.

The speaker's talks called for restriction of farm credit, new trade policies, and action by the federal government to aid U.S. farmers before it is too late.

Perquimans County farmer Jimmy Hunter stated that he hoped the day long event would open some eyes to the farm crisis. "Now is the

time for action," said Hunter. He added that hopefully government agencies would be forced to act to help our nation's farmers from the current crisis.

The program also included an appearance by Atlanta Attorney, Thomas Stamps. Stamps discussed current bankruptcy laws, and reviewed how chapter 12 bankruptcy laws can help farmers remain in business, and begin a new life.

Stamps stated that although chapter 12 bankruptcy laws exist to help farmers many are ashamed to seek help. "They don't like to admit they're in trouble," said Stamps. "Farmers have a lot of pride."

Several speakers attributed the small turnout for the event to problems farmers are facing in their finances.

Many of the guest stated that even with the reduced fares offered for the event, many still were unable to spend the necessary money for a ticket.

After the program, speakers and farmers gathered for lunch in Williams Hall. Following lunch, farmers and guest gathered to discuss farm problems.

Businesses throughout the Albemarle Area made numerous donations for the event including pigs, programs, and soft drinks.

Volunteers began cooking food Friday night, and worked all night long to get everything ready for Saturday morning.

At the conclusion of Farm Save Day organizers seemed pleased with the results.

Man killed in accident Thursday evening

A Perquimans County man was killed Thursday evening when the truck he was driving struck a power line just off of Harvey Point Road.

Fred Jones Rountree, 31, of 132 Wynne Fork Court, was killed instantly in the accident which occurred while he was delivering a load of rock at the home of Charles Dean, Rt. 5, Box 135A, Hertford, N.C..

According to Sheriff's Deputy, Tony Perry, chief criminal investigating officer for the department, Rountree apparently drove forward in the truck with the bed in a partially up position. Rountree caught a power

line in the process which was overhead.

Rountree then stepped from the truck to check the problem, when he stepped from the truck's cab which was grounded onto the wet land he was electrocuted. The sheriff's department stated that they felt it was a freak accident.

The Rescue squad and local firemen responded to the accident, but Rountree was pronounced dead at the scene by Dr. Lane, Perquimans County Medical Examiner.

Rountree was employed with Dixie Auto Parts in Hertford.

Date set for corn growers referendum

February 24 is the date when corn farmers will decide whether to approve continuation of the one-half (1/2) cent per bushel on all corn marketed in North Carolina according to Dr. Chester Black, Agricultural Extension Director. The corn "check-off" program has been in effect since 1978, and the upcoming vote will cover authorization for a six-year period, beginning with the 1987 crop and extending through 1992.

The program is administered by the Corn Growers Association of North Carolina which is involved in development and improvement of corn production, research, marketing, utilization, quality and the general welfare of corn producers. A 24-member Board of Directors, covering all the producing areas of North Carolina, governs the organization's activities. Ted Ivey of Wayne County is the President.

Polling places will be set up in one or more places in each corn producing county. County Extension Directors will have the information as to the exact polling places. All farmers currently engaged in the production of corn, including tenants, sharecroppers or other persons sharing in the production income of corn are eligible to vote.

In September Perquimans Central school will celebrate it's 50th anniversary.

Golden anniversary committee makes plans

The celebration is scheduled to take place on Sunday, September 27th, from 2:00 p.m. until 5:00 p.m.. The event will be a floating open house, and the golden committee hopes to have plans finalized for the event soon.

Former teachers are expected to be on hand for the afternoon, as well as other local and state officials. Freda Nelson, teacher, and former student will be composing a history of the school for presentation in September.

The next meeting of the committee is scheduled for March 4th.

Farmers urged to get back to basics of farming

By STANLEY J. WINSLOW
County Ext. Director

This is the fourth and final article in our series on the Farm Financial Crisis.

In times of sickness, injury or death, people forget about the extra things of life. They concentrate on basic needs to get them through the time of crisis. A "Back to the Basics" approach can also work for farmers who are experiencing varying degrees of financial stress.

Jack Ward, Area Farm Management Agent, gave a good illustration of the Basic parts of human life. I would like to use this to put what many of our farmers are experiencing into proper perspective.

Life is similar to a three legged stool. If one of these three legs is broken, the other two legs have to bal-

ance the stool and carry the extra weight. The three legs of Life are Spiritual, Family and Business. Many farmers are experiencing a weakened or broken business leg at this time. The extra strain placed on their family and spiritual lives because of business problems, creates an almost unbearable situation. It becomes very hard to focus on those basic things which make a life.

Your spiritual life is your foundation for all other aspects of your life. During times of stress. Place more emphasis on your spiritual well-being through Bible study, church attendance and prayer and meditation.

Your family can be a strong support group to lean on when other things are going wrong. Strengthen family relationships by spending time together and maintaining good

communications. As Jack Ward puts it-make more than a living-make a life.

Finally, we come to the basics of business. In farming today it is often difficult to get down to the basics of business. Farming has become a highly complex, demanding, "BIG" business. Despite all of this, now is the time more than ever to work on the basics. The basics of farming are: Marketing, Record Keeping, and Production Management.

Developing and following a marketing plan is essential to all farming operations. Other types of businesses don't produce goods without knowing the market potential for those goods. As farmers, we have many tools available to us for marketing our crops. Forward contracting, hedging, options-granted these tools have not been as beneficial in the last few years as they were in the seventy's; but they have worked in the past and they will work again.

For now we are dependent on the Government Programs for price support and sale or our rains. Take every available opportunity to study these programs so you can participate at the level most beneficial to your farming operation. Don't get caught at years end saying "I didn't know about a particular option." Get informed and stay informed.

Those who don't remember the past are destined to repeat it. Good records will help avoid past mistakes and give support to continuing profitable practices. With good records,

cash flow can easily be examined and by going a few steps further net worth can be established. Today, both items are being looked at very closely by all lending institutions. To sum it up - Today's Farmer cannot afford to be without records.

The final item to consider is managing production inputs to get the most output for every dollar of input. There are many opportunities profitable practices. With good records, cash flow can easily be examined and by going a few steps further net worth can be established. Today, both items are being looked at very closely by all lending institutions. To sum it up - Today's Farmer cannot afford to be without records.

The final item to consider is managing production inputs to get the most output for every dollar of input. There are many opportunities and many temptations to cut costs. Avoid the temptation of cutting inputs without information to support the cut. Take advantage of the opportunities to soil sample, nematode sample and use plant tissue samples. Follow the results of these tests. You may use more or less of an input, but you will have scientific facts to back you up. There are many other considerations when developing a crop production plan. Look at each step carefully.

Jeff, Jack and myself are ready to work with you on any questions you may have about livestock, record keeping or crop production. If we don't know an answer we will find it for you. (426-5428)

Good luck with the 1987 Season.

Welcome center planned to open in 1987 on U.S. 17

A group of community leaders including a delegation from Perquimans County traveled Thursday to meet with legislators in Raleigh.

The group learned three things from their visit: 1. The Dismal Swamp Canal will probably remain open for some time, 2. A welcome center is scheduled to be constructed on U.S. 17 near the Virginia line, and 3. A protest will be filed with Norfolk Southern Railroad officials over the closing of the Albemarle Sound bridge.

Local officials including Bill Cox, Mayor of Hertford, Shirley Perry, Mary Harrell, Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce, Mr. and Mrs. Phil McMullen, and a group of officials from the Albemarle Commission joined others from throughout the Albemarle region to make the trip.

In addition to legislators the group met with North Carolina Department of Transportation officials, members of the Army Corps of Engineers, and officials from the North Carolina Department of Travel and Tourism.

The group learned from North Carolina Department of Transportation officials, and officials for the department of travel and tourism that a \$400,000 contract for a new welcome center would be let in November of 1987, and that construction will begin

on the project in 1988. The projected opening date of the center is sometime in 1988.

The proposed welcome center will be a combined information and rest center, will be located on U.S. 17 near the Virginia line, and will be the first center designed with boat slips. It is the hope of everyone concerned with the project to reach boaters as well as those traveling by road.

Wesley Webster, Assistant Secretary of the D.O.T. stated that both Secretary Harrington, and the Department of Transportation are excited about the project. "The secretary is excited about the project, and the D.O.T. is excited about the concept," said Webster.

The group also learned that new studies done by the corps of engineers support arguments to keep the dismal swamp canal open.

Karl Kuhlman, Corps of Engineers, stated that recent studies have shown that closing the canal might cause the Dismal Swamp Wildlife Refuge to dry up. Kuhlman stated that for that reason they could justify leaving the canal open.

Legislators also told the group that they intend to issue a protest with Norfolk and Southern Railroad officials concerning the closing of the Albemarle Sound Bridge.

Jim "Catfish" Hunter day planned in Hertford

Mayor Bill Cox announced Monday that a committee has been formed to plan Jim "Catfish" Hunter day.

Mayor Cox stated that the community is planning a day on which they can show their appreciation and honor Jimmy Hunter for his accomplishments.

Plans for the day are currently in the works. May 9th has been selected as the date. This is the day on which the old timers game will take place.

The next meeting of the steering committee will be held on February 26th at 7:00 p.m. at Joe's Place. The public is invited to attend.

Ziemba selected to conduct district band

It was recently announced that Perquimans County school's band director, David Ziemba has been selected to direct the district Junior High Concert Band.

Mr. Ziemba will direct the band next February at the district band clinic in Greenville.

Band directors in the district,

which is made up of all of eastern North Carolina voted on the selection.

Mr. Ziemba stated that he feels his selection speaks well of the Perquimans County band program. Mr. Ziemba also stated that it will be a big responsibility to live up to.

