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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 60, No. 48

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Wednesday, November 28, 1991

30 Cents

Briefs Cox honored Sunday at open house

AADA banquet set

The Albemarle Area Development Association will hold its 30th annual banquet on Wednesday, Dec. 4 at 6:15 p.m. The meal begins at 7. The banquet will be held at the Vernon James Research Center located on U.S. 64 East of Plymouth. The guest speaker will be Jim Kincaid. Economic development awards will be presented to local businesses from each of the 10 counties in the AADA which have stimulated economic development within their county. Awards will also be presented to civic groups and organizations which have promoted community development and involvement throughout the region. The cost is \$10 per person. Tickets can be obtained through the cooperative extension service. Reservations are encouraged.

Play to be presented

The Perquimans County High School drama and music departments will present "A Christmas Carol" on Monday, Dec. 9 at 7:30 p.m. in the school auditorium. The play, based on the Charles Dickens classic tale of Christmas spirit, was adapted for the stage by the P.C.H.S. drama class, taught by Lynwood Winslow. Admission is \$3 for adults and \$1 for children under 12. Tickets may be purchased in advance or at the door.

Notary Public training

College of the Albemarle will offer a one-night Notary Public Training class on Dec. 5 in Elizabeth City.

The class will be held from 7-10 p.m. in room 229 of the A Building, Jeanne C. White, with the Perquimans County Register of Deeds office, will teach the course.

The cost of the course is \$30 plus \$6.36 for a required manual. A social security number is needed to register. For more information, call COA's Continuing Education office at 335-0821, ext. 250.

Cloggers to meet

The Cornfield Cloggers of Gates Company will be having an Open House on Tuesday, Dec. 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Gates County Community Center on Highway 158 in Gatesville. The public is invited for free fun, entertainment and refreshments. For more information, call 357-1336 or 465-4166.

Calendar

Thursday

Happy Thanksgiving!
Nov. 29, 30, Dec. 1, 4, 5 -
"Christmas on the Radio;" Angler's Cove Restaurant

Monday

County Commissioners 9 a.m.;
Board of Education 7 p.m.

Wednesday

PCHS Basketball-Aurora.

HAPPY THANKSGIVING
from
THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



An estimated 200 people paid tribute to the years of hard work and dedication of Hertford Mayor W. D. "Bill" Cox Sunday at an open house organized by his friends. Residents of the town of Hertford and Perquimans County as well as state officials joined in honoring Cox, who has served as mayor for 20 years. Cox did not seek an additional term in office this month, and his present term will end on Dec. 9 when mayor-elect John Beers will be sworn in.

State Senator Marc Basnight, Representatives R.M. "Pete" Thompson and Vernon James, and District Court Judge Janice Cole were on hand to thank Cox for his contributions not only to Hertford, but to all of northeastern North Carolina. "I think it was a very lovely day for a very deserving person," said town councilman Billy Winslow. "Bill Cox has certainly been a very dedicated public servant for the people of the town of Hertford, also Perquimans County and the 10-county area.

"Bill has meant a lot to this town. With the turn-out today (at the open house), I think it showed that the people appreciate his service." Winslow added that Cox was not the only one honored. "I think behind every dedicated man is certainly a dedicated woman, and we certainly owe Jessie Cox a debt of gratitude," Winslow said.

"There won't ever be but one Bill Cox, that's for sure," said

Perquimans County Manager Paul Gregory. "He's worked hard for the town. He'll be a good support to John Beers."

Gregory also credited Cox with his concern for Perquimans County. "He's always supported

"I don't know of anyone who's had more impact on moving forward than Bill Cox has. He's been a real force and I'm proud of him."

Rep. R.M. "Pete" Thompson

the county. I'm looking forward to continuing to work with him."

Cox did not resign from his position as town manager.

Beers said he was very pleased that Cox was recognized. "I think it certainly proved today that people have a lot of respect for Bill. The turnout was great. It was beautiful. It goes to show that he did have the support of the people and respect of the people all these years."

Hertford businessman and former political candidate W.A. "Billy" White said, "I think Bill has done a fine job with what he's had to work with." White added that many of the needed improvements in the town must begin with the people. "People have got to learn to shop at home. We need people to take part in community activities that are going on and the biggest thing is to put the pride back in themselves," White continued.

Henry Carney, owner-operator of Angler's Cove Restaurant, was full of praise for Cox, who has become a good friend of Carney's since Carney moved here in the early 1970s. "As far as I'm concerned, he's done

more for the county than all the county commissioners put together. He's just there when people need him...If you want something done...Bill will find a way to get it done. It's not just the town to him, it's the whole county. He's been very helpful to me in all my years here."

"I don't know of anybody who's had any more impact on moving forward than Bill Cox has. He's been a real force and I'm proud of him. If there's somewhere in the region he's supposed to be, he's there, and if he says he'll do something, he does. In fact, I could write a book about him."

"I'm sorry to see him step down as mayor, certainly no reflection on his replacement, but just the fact that he's been like a right hand to me as a commissioner," said Hertford town councilman Eric Haste. "When problems arise, he's usually the first person I turn to and he's got the right answer."

"He's still going to be around, hopefully, as town manager, and will continue to help us with the problems we have," Haste added.

"Bill has done a super job for Hertford," said councilman Sid Eley, who was sworn in earlier this month. "He's the first mayor/town manager ever, and I



Photo by Gary Cosby Jr.

Minnie Wilma Hurdle and Mayor W.D. "Bill" Cox welcome guests to the appreciation open house honoring Cox Sunday. About 200 friends stopped by during the afternoon.

hope he will continue on as town manager. It's nice to have someone like Bill Cox around. I think he's a friend to the people in the town and that makes him a friend of the town."

"It was great, very humbling," Cox said after the open house. "It meant an awful lot to me. I'll always be indebted to my friends, and today they made me feel that very deeply. If I have done anything for the benefit of this town and this county, it has been because of the people that worked with me. Miss

Jessie and myself are just as grateful as we can be."

The idea of honoring Cox was the brain child of the late Paul Smith Sr. and Carney. According to Mary Ruth Smith, the two men and their wives discussed holding some type of appreciation get-together for Cox over dinner at Carney's restaurant one evening. After planning a reception to be held at Bare's Beach, the two couples enlisted the support of their families and friends.

State candidates campaign

Candidates for state office have blazed a trail across northeastern North Carolina recently, outlining their platforms and seeking grassroots support. Three have stopped in Perquimans County to garner support here.

The latest of candidates to visit was House Majority Leader Dennis A. Wicker, 39, who is vying for the Democratic nomination for Lieutenant Governor. Wicker met locals at a gathering at the Winfall home of Willard and Christine Copeland last Wednesday evening.

Wicker told the group at the Copeland's home that he would officially announce his candidacy on Nov. 25.

Wicker is a native of Lee County, one of six children. He is a graduate of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the Wake Forest School of Law. He is married and has twin sons, 5, who attend Lee County schools.

Politics has long been a part of Wicker's life. His father was a seven-term member of the House.

"I am running because I believe the people in this state are hungry and ready for new leadership," he said.

Wicker said he wants to see better education in the public schools and he has strongly supported community colleges. A return to the basics, smaller class size and good teachers salaries are advocated by Wicker. He added that the community college system helps to conquer illiteracy and prepare the state's workforce.

Wicker also spoke to a delegation of officials from Pasquotank, Camden and Currituck at B.J.'s Restaurant on Thursday.

Former Gov. James B. Hunt was in town on Nov. 13 seeking support for a third bid for governor. Hunt said he hadn't planned on running for governor again, but was compelled to file because he said the state is in "such bad condition."

"I think it's a great day in North Carolina and Northeastern North Carolina when Jim is in Hertford," said Mayor W.D. "Bill" Cox as he welcomed Hunt to the courthouse green. "We're proud you're seeking office...we're proud you stopped in Hertford."



Photo by Nancy Royden-Clark

Dennis Wicker (right), a Democrat campaigning for his party's nomination for Lieutenant Governor, discusses his platform with Tommy Riddick at a reception held in Wicker's honor last Wednesday at the home of Willard and Christine Copeland.

"This county is going to do well in 1992 if I'm elected," Hunt said after Cox's introduction.

Hunt, 54, is a corporate lawyer from Wilson. He held the governor's post from 1977-1984. The Democrat said he wants to see the state's economy revitalized, with more jobs and more opportunities. He also wants to see child care on the top of the state's priorities list, along with education.

Hunt also advocates putting prisoners to work to reduce the burden of the prison system. "Let's make them work for a living," he said to applause from those gathered.

He also said that the governor's salary should be reduced. North Carolina's governor's salary is the highest in the nation.

Hunt also spoke about tax increases. "When Jim Hunt was governor, there were no tax increases in eight years," he said.

"My friends, the bottom line is that our problem is not the people. The problem is in our leadership. The problem is in Raleigh. We are going to change if we have to turn (the state) upside down," Hunt commented.

On Nov. 12, Republican Lt. Governor hopeful Art Pope made a campaign stop in Perquimans.

The 35-year-old two-term legislator from Wake County is finance officer for a family-run 500-store retail chain when not in Raleigh.

Pope said he is running for Lt. Governor to stop what he calls the "shenanigans in state government."

Pope voted against both the 1990 and 1991 budgets that came out of the state General Assembly because he said both either shifted funds to pay for government or raised taxes to make up for shortfalls.

He pointed the finger at Democrats, blaming them for the tax increases.

"Instead of cutting spending, and making broad changes, the Democrats wanted short-time fixes...and taxes. They actually cut your budget through higher taxes," Pope said.

Pope said bond financing, rather than tax increases, should be used to fund state building projects.

The Republican also said he sees needs in the public schools. He favors local flexibility, and said the schools should be more accountable to parents.



Photo by Susan Harris

Horizons check

John Christensen (left) presents a check to Joyce Riddick and Henry Stokes, owners of the building occupied by Eagles, Inc., for their recent building renovations. The check is a part of the Hertford Horizons fund. On hand also were Hertford Mayor W.D. "Bill" Cox, Chamber Executive Director Mary Harrell and Carl Terranova.

Winter production slated

When Theatre in the Park's production of *A Christmas Carol* returns to COA on Dec. 7, the generosity of Albemarle Hospital and BB Bank will have played a large part in making this family favorite possible for the second consecutive year.

Both businesses are sponsoring one performance each. Albemarle Hospital, as it did last year, is sponsoring the matinee performance as their Christmas gift to the children of the Albemarle. BB Bank, which is moving to this area by month's end, has contributed to the cost of the evening performance as a Christmas gift to their new Albemarle neighbors.

"We are grateful that both Albemarle Hospital and BB Bank have chosen to support this second production of our 199-92 COA Center Stage season. We couldn't have brought this wonderful show to our area without their help," said Jan Riley, chairperson of the Community Center Advisory Committee

at COA. The show, which has played in Raleigh's Memorial Auditorium for almost 20 years, was adapted from the Dickens classic by Ira David Wood III, founder of Theatre in the Park. Wood, who plays Scrooge, also wrote the music for the show. Not your typical rendition of this old Christmas favorite, Wood's version of *A Christmas Carol* is full of jokes and zaniness which varies each year along with changes in the music.

COA Center Stage will present *A Christmas Carol* on Saturday, Dec. 7 at 3 and 8 p.m. in the Community Center Auditorium as the second offering of the 1991-92 season.

Tickets are now on sale at all COA locations. Ticket costs for the matinee performance are \$7.50 for children 12 and under and \$15.50 for adults. Evening performances are \$15.50 in advance for all ages and \$17.50 at the door. For more information, call COA at 335-0821, ext. 287.