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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 61, No. 3

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, January 16, 1992

35 Cents

Briefs Courthouse annex dedicated Sunday

City tags and stickers on sale

The Town of Hertford now has city tags and stickers on sale for \$5 each. These must be on Hertford residents' vehicles by Feb. 15 to avoid being fined.

Board meetings changed

The regularly scheduled Jan. 20 meeting of the Perquimans County Board of Education has been cancelled due to the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday.

The Perquimans County Commissioners rescheduled their Jan. 20 meeting for Tuesday, Jan. 21 at 7:30 p.m.

Cancer Society benefit

The American Cancer Society will host an All-You-Can-Eat Pancake and Sausage Day on Saturday, Jan. 25, at Perquimans County High School. Servings hours are 7-10 a.m., 11 a.m. - 1 p.m., and 5-7 p.m. The cost is \$3.50 per person.

Seminar to be held at Chowan Hospital

Chowan Hospital will sponsor a special presentation on anxiety disorders on Friday, Jan. 31 at 12 noon in the hospital classroom.

A box lunch and refreshments will be provided. Seating is limited, so register by Tuesday, Jan. 28 at 482-6322.

Bake sale planned

There will be a benefit bake sale for the Marching Pirates on Saturday, Feb. 8 beginning at 9 a.m. in front of Woodard's Pharmacy.

The Band Boosters have extra 1992 community birthday calendars. Anyone interested in purchasing a calendar for \$4 should contact Ellen O'Neal at Perquimans Central School.

Monthly meeting set

The Memory Lane Senior Citizens Club will hold their monthly meeting on Monday, Jan. 20 at 2 p.m. at the senior center.

Soybean Festival scheduled

The annual North Carolina Soybean Festival will be held on Thursday, Jan. 23 at the Kermit E. White Center. The exhibit area will open at 5 p.m. and the banquet will begin at 7 p.m. Dr. Jim Miller will be the keynote speaker. There is no charge for the meal; however, reservations are required and may be made by calling the Perquimans County Extension Office at 426-5428 by noon Jan. 21. The office will be closed on Jan. 20 in observance of Dr. M. L. King Jr.'s birthday.

NAACP to meet

The Perquimans County Branch of the NAACP will hold a special meeting on Thursday, Jan. 16 at 7:30 p.m. at the senior citizens building.

Chamber banquet set

The annual Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce banquet will be held Monday, Jan. 27 at the Holiday Island Clubhouse. A social hour will begin at 6:30 p.m. followed by a prime rib dinner at 7. Gwen White, director of public information for Dare County, will be the guest speaker. Tickets are \$15 and are available at the Chamber office. Reservations should be made by Jan. 17.

Courtroom overflows

Over 100 people crowded into the Perquimans County Courthouse Annex Sunday afternoon for the building's dedication. Representatives Vernon James and R.M. "Pete" Thompson and district court judges Grafton Beamon, Janice Cole, and J. Richard Parker were among the honored guests who attended the ceremony held in the new second floor courtroom.

"It's a proud day for Perquimans County and its citizens," county commissioners chairman Mack Nixon told those gathered. The commissioners dedicated the building to the citizens of the county.

Nixon said the renovation of the building represented the wise use of resources. He stated that "recycling" the former J.C. Blanchard building was in keeping with the present trend towards recycling.

"There is a definite need here in Perquimans County for two courtrooms," said Judge Parker. Parker said he complimented the county's foresight in purchasing and eventually renovating the building. His statements were echoed by judges Cole and Beamon.

The annex was born when the county commissioners purchased the building for \$55,000 on Dec. 4, 1978 from Talmage and Barbara Rose and John and Betty Beers. Commissioners Riley Monds, Guy Webb, Joe Nowell, Walter Winslow, and Lester Simpson saw the need to plan for future office space, and bought the building which is ad-



Photo by Gary Cosby Jr.

The Perquimans County Courthouse Annex was dedicated to the people of Perquimans County Sunday afternoon. Residents and special guests filled the new second-floor courtroom and overflowed into the hallways of the building. Here county commissioners Wayne Winslow, Leo Higgins, chairman Mack Nixon, Thomas Nixon and Lester Simpson prepare to cut the ribbon.

acent to the courthouse. Public opinion was not overwhelmingly positive, but the officials stuck to their beliefs that there would be a need for the property in years to come.

Housed on the building's first floor are the dispatch department, sheriff's department, commissioner's room, building inspection department, probation office and magistrate's office. Two empty offices are expected to be used by the wa-

ter department in years to come.

In addition to the courtroom, the second floor houses a judge's office, jury room, lock-up area, clerk of court's office for use on court days, law library, and four conference rooms. One conference room will house the North Carolina Highway Patrol breathalyzer equipment.

The cost of renovating the annex was \$438,348, slightly less than the estimate of \$450,000 obtained by the

county five years ago. Court facilities funds covered \$180,000 of the cost. Another \$15,000 was appropriated by the state legislature. The balance was paid from county coffers. An additional \$22,000 in local funds was spent for furniture.

After the ceremony in the courtroom, the commissioners and their guests moved downstairs for a ribbon-cutting courtesy of the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce.

Knights feel sting of Pirates' sword



Photo by Gary Cosby Jr.

It was an emotional night Friday when the Knights of Currituck visited Perquimans and were wounded with losses at the hands of the Lady Pirates and Pirate varsity teams.

The Perquimans Pirates jabbed a double-edged sword through the armor of the Knights of Currituck Friday night as both the girls and varsity teams won their conference openers in exciting contests. Fans leapt to their feet during both games when the Perquimans teams drew blood in the final minutes of play.

Down by 13 points early in the fourth quarter, the Lady Pirates employed tough defense and outside shooting to post a 39-34 win over visiting Currituck. The win marked the first time the Lady Pirates had defeated Currituck in regular season play since 1984. The rivals have met in the conference tournament championship game for the past two years. The Lady Pirates took the 1990 win; the Lady Knights were victorious in the one-point 1991 decision.

The Perquimans varsity squad had sought a win over Currituck since 1982. The Pirates' 55-48 upset Friday resulted from teamwork, precision shooting from the foul line in the fourth quarter, and taking advantage of foul trouble for Currituck's top offensive threats.

Although the battles of the Albemarle Conference have just begun, both teams used their weapons effectively early on. The players and coaches hope to keep their swords sharp and ready for action until the wars of the conference tournament the first week in March.

For a complete review of both games, please see page 6.

King celebrations planned

Monday, Jan. 20 will mark the fifth state observance of the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday. State and local government agencies, community groups, churches, and private and public organizations have scheduled activities throughout North Carolina during the month of January in recognition of Dr. King and his contributions to society. The state theme for the observance is "Living the Dream, Let Freedom Ring, Through Serving Others."

The Perquimans County Chapter of the NAACP will observe Dr. King's birthday with a motorcade scheduled at 3 p.m. Those participating will assemble at Missing Mill Park at that time.

The motorcade will lead to the St. Paul A.M.E. Zion Church where the Rev. David S. Whitehurst of Riddick Grove Baptist Church will speak at a service to begin at 4 p.m. Music will be provided by the Community Choir under the direction of Earline Sellers.

Dr. King is remembered still for leading a nonviolent movement to earn equal rights

for black Americans. Although his marches and gatherings in churches stressed peace, he and those he led through the difficult struggle for equality were often met by violence, sometimes from law enforcement officials. His house was vandalized. Churches where he was to speak were vandalized. But he continued his work.

One of his most famous speeches was the "I have a dream" theme. He said he dreamed of a day when all people would enjoy the same rights and liberties under the law and in society. He spent much time away from his family talking with government officials about his dream, and spreading his philosophy across the country.

Although Dr. King was a dreamer, he was also a realist. He knew that his beliefs shattered those held by other races, and he knew that it would take many painful years for his dream to become reality.

Dr. King is regarded through the world as one of the world's greatest black leaders.



Photo by Susan Harris

One injured

At least one man was injured Monday afternoon after an apparent head-on collision on Swamp Road. One man was reportedly taken to Albemarle Hospital. Trooper Craig Garris investigated the accident, but no details were available at press time.

Building has rich history

On paper it might be dubbed the "courthouse annex," but it will be a long time before people in Perquimans County refer to the recently-renovated county building downtown as anything other than "the Blanchard building."

Charles T. Skinner Jr. provided some history of J.C. Blanchard, original owner of the building, and his business for the dedication ceremony program.

According to Skinner, the name Blanchard's was synonymous with the mercantile business in Perquimans County from 1832 until 1978. In 1866, Mr. Blanchard moved his family from a community known as Nixon's Bridge on the Perquimans River near Winfall to Hertford.

The first building on the site was wood. In 1909, the wood building was moved back to the Front Street side of the lot to make room for a two-story modern brick building. This new building complemented the other commercial buildings constructed downtown between 1895 and 1915.

Several innovative architectural designs were used in this new Blanchard Building. Numerous windows to allow natural light and ventilation were installed. Pressed metal ceiling panels, a metal roof, and metal security bars on the rear window were features of the building. Canvas awnings shaded the sidewalk below. Skinner found that William F. Stokes, a prominent local contractor of the day, probably built the new store.

No major structural changes were made until after a disastrous fire on July 2, 1943. The fire originated under the stairs leading to the second floor. Flames and smoke spread throughout the upper floor. Store employees and patrons of the beauty shop located on the second floor were forced by smoke and heat to jump from the upper windows on the front of the store. One female employee died from smoke inhalation trying to reach a window. A male employee died later from injuries received from leaping from the window. Several people received serious burns. The roof collapsed from the fire damage. Smoke and water damage to the merchandise on the ground floor was tremendous.

The building was repaired and was operated by Mr. Blanchard until his death in October 1948. But his death did not mark the end of his business legacy. A new business organization was formed with Lindsey C. Winslow as president of the J.C. Blanchard & Co., Inc. firm. The Winslow family owned the business until 1978 when the county bought the building for \$55,000.

Scores of people were employed over the years in the Blanchard building. This company and this building were an important part of the business community for many years. With its recent renovations, the building is once again serving the community.

"History has a unique way of repeating itself," Skinner said.

DEADLINES FOR THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY ARE AS FOLLOWS:

NEWS RELEASES ... MON. 3 P.M.

RETAIL ADVERTISING ... MON. 3 P.M.

CLASSIFIED & LEGALS ... MON. 3 P.M.

PRIOR TO THURSDAY PUBLICATION

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118 W. Grubb St.

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