

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

SEPTEMBER 23, 2009 - SEPTEMBER 29, 2009

THE WALK TO D'FEET ALS WILL BE HELD SATURDAY.

Walkers will register between 8-9 a.m. at Perquimans High School. For more information, call Helen Hunter at 426-7998.

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Town to consider billing audit

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

Hertford council members will consider next month whether or not to hire an accounting firm to audit the town's water, sewer and electric bills sent to individual customers.

Town Manager John Christensen said the certified public accounting firm of Pittard Perry & Crone, Inc. has submitted a proposal to audit individual bills, recalculate a percentage of the bills, review write-offs, analyze consumption compared to billing, review deposits, and review cut-off procedures.

The firm will do the work for \$5,000 or less. Christensen said council will consider the proposal at its Oct. 12 meeting. The proposal is the result of the council members' concern over citizens' perception of utility billing irregularities. Over the past few weeks, citizens have complained about the high cost of utility bills in Hertford. Several citizens had their electricity cut off for non payment.

Black citizens have also voiced concerns that they believe white citizens living in larger homes pay less for utilities than black customers living in smaller homes.

Christensen and town council members have said all town customers pay the same residential rate; only the usage amount changes. Council member Anne White suggested the town initiate some type of investigation into how people are billed for utilities in an effort to clear any misconception by citizens.

"When they talk about white bills different from black bills, that becomes a civil rights allegation," she added. "We're dealing with people's perception here. We need to find out just what the problem is."

Vice Mayor Horace Reid said he believes part of the problem is that citizens need to look at what terms they are using when they compare individual bills.

"Their utility bill and their electricity charge are two different things," he pointed out. Some people may have compared utility bills (which include electricity, sewer and

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WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 84 LOW: 66
ISOLATED THUNDERSTORMS

FRIDAY
HIGH: 80 LOW: 65
SHOWERS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 80 LOW: 62
SCATTERED THUNDERSTORMS



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Cole to replace Parker on Superior Court

Cole has been district court judge since '94

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

HERTFORD — Longtime District Court Judge J. Carlton "J.C." Cole of Hertford has been appointed to replace Superior Court Judge J. Richard Parker, who will be stepping down early at the end of this month.

Gov. Bev Perdue announced Cole's appointment on Monday. He officially takes his seat on the Superior Court bench on Oct. 1.

"Judge Cole is a person of the highest integrity, highly disciplined, and a gifted individual," Perdue said in a

statement. "His years of experience on the District Court bench have prepared him well for the Superior Court."

Cole, who has been a District Court judge since 1994, called the appointment "awesome."

"I am very humble," Cole said. "I look forward to continuing to serve the great people I have been fortunate to work with these past 15 years."

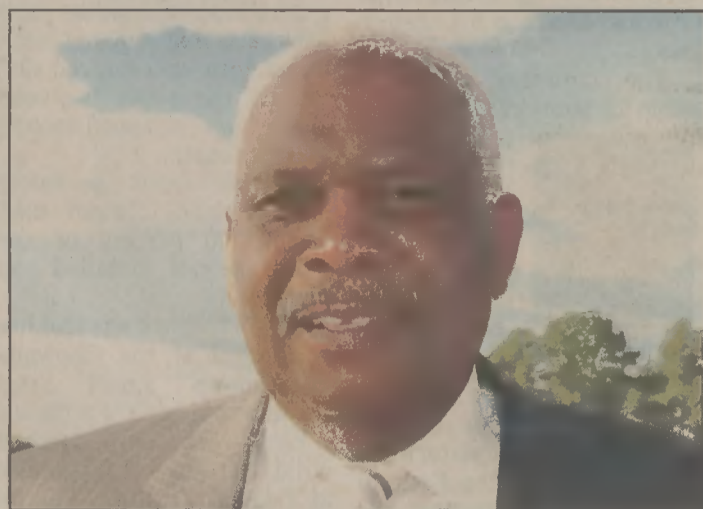
Former Gov. Jim Hunt appointed Cole to the District Court bench in the 1st Judicial District in 1994. He replaced his wife, Janice Cole, who had been both the first woman and

the first African-American to serve as a judge in the 1st District.

Prior to his appointment to the bench, J.C. Cole had a law practice in Hertford. He also had worked as a licensed private investigator and U.S. postal inspector.

Cole earned an undergraduate degree in mathematics at Livingstone College in Salisbury and a master's degree in criminal justice from Long Island University in Brooklyn, New York. He received his law degree from North Carolina Central University

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SUBMITTED PHOTO

Gov. Bev Perdue announced District Court Judge J. Carlton "J.C." Cole's appointment on Monday. He officially takes his seat on the Superior Court bench on Oct. 1.

Community steps up



PERQUIMANS WEEKLY PHOTOS BY CATHY WILSON

The folks at Woodville Pentecostal Holiness Church provided the goodies during a bake sale Saturday to benefit cancer patient Elton Baccus and his family. Baccus was diagnosed in August with mesothelioma and had his right lung removed two weeks ago at Duke University Hospital. Money raised Saturday by the Coastal Carolina Riders, the church, and other friends and family members, will help fund the family's frequent trips to Duke for extensive treatment.

Illness brings out support for Baccus and his family

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

The community came together Saturday to help one of its own.

It's not unusual to hold a fund-raiser to help someone in need. But Saturday, two groups combined their efforts to host a day-long series of fundraisers to help Elton Baccus, 65, a Perquimans County resident.

Family members say surgeons removed his right lung two weeks ago at Duke University Hospital in Raleigh after being diagnosed with mesothelioma in August. Mesothelioma is a form of lung cancer caused by asbestos. His treatment will include radiation and chemo, family members say, which will require numerous trips to Raleigh. The money raised will help the family fund those trips.

Members of Coastal Carolina Riders (CCR) and Woodville Pentecostal Holiness Church (WPHC) filled the parking lot at the Perquimans County Recreation Center with a motorcycle poker run, car show, barbe-



Marilyn Baccus is hugged by a friend during Saturday's fundraiser helping her husband Elton in his battle to fight lung cancer. "This is overwhelming," she said, fighting back tears as she saw the large number of friends and family who came to the county recreation center to help her family.

cue, bake sales, raffles and a 50/50 drawing to raise money for a man who has given much to others.

"He's never been sick, never smoked; in fact, he and Marilyn (his wife) rode with us on the July 4th run to the mountains and he

had no symptoms at all," said Marvin Fitzgerald, one of the organizers who is a member of CCR. "He started losing weight and got fluid in his lungs, and then was diagnosed with lung cancer in August. He's always helping everyone else. Now it's

time for us to help him. It's come full circle."

Geri Owens said her cousin worked at a shipyard years ago, and was also a carpenter and a car mechanic in the past.

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H1N1 flu mild to moderate — so far

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

If you think the Pandemic H1N1 flu (commonly known as the Swine Flu) is not in your community, think again.

Health officials say 95 percent of all flu in the country now is Pandemic H1N1 flu.

"It's here and it's here to stay," Ashley Stoop with Albemarle Regional Health Services (ARHS) told Hertford council members recently.

So far, flu cases have been termed mild to moderate in severity, she said, but that can change radically. Severity is based on the number of hospitalizations and deaths associated with the illness.

"We just don't know," said Stoop. "We don't know what it will do this fall. It might stay like this, or it could get worse. It may get complicated this fall when the seasonal flu hits too."

Nationwide, health officials are neither testing for the virus nor tracking the number

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Man is beaten with bat

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

A 21-year-old Hertford man was injured last week when he was beaten with a baseball bat in the parking lot of a local convenience store.

Chief Joe Amos with the Hertford Police Department said Billy Bundy, of 617 New Hope Road, was hit in the head with a baseball bat around 9:30 p.m. Sept. 14 outside Park N Shop located on Harvey Point Road. Bundy was taken to Albemarle Health with injuries to his head by Perquimans EMS, Amos said.

Officer Josh Turpin was the first officer on the scene. Police said Bundy knew his assailants and the beating was the result of an ongoing dispute between the people involved.

As of Monday, no one had been arrested in connection with the incident. Investigation is continuing.