THE DAILY CLIPS

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BYRON PITTS, CBS national correspondent and former Greenville newscaster, speaks Tuesday at the Fifth Annual Carolyn Freeze Baynes Memorial Lecture on social justice at Hendrix Auditorium on the campus of East Carolina University.
Trailblazer remembered as one of city’s ‘biggest ambassadors’

By Mike Grizzard
The Daily Reflector

Jeanette Cox will be remembered by many in Greenville as a pioneer for women in real estate. Local Realtor Connie Corey also called her “a dear, dear friend.”

Cox died Sunday at the age of 86. Her funeral was held Tuesday at St. James United Methodist Church.

“She was a pioneer for women in real estate, and she didn’t give up,” Corey said. “It made it that much easier for the rest of us when we tried to get into an industry that was predominantly male-oriented.”

Corey, an agent with Heritage Properties, said she and Cox were friends for about 17 years.

“I’ve always known who she was, but we became friends when she cussed me out in 1961,” Corey said. “After that, we just kind of bonded. I guess I stood up to her. She was one of these that you had to earn her respect. She didn’t just give it to you, period.”

Cox operated Jeanette Cox Agency for 37 years. She came to Greenville from Jacksonville in 1960 to attend East Carolina University and married Charles Cox of Charlotte in 1965. Charles died in 1971 when Jeanette was pregnant with their second child.

She is survived by her mother, Ruby Gilley, of Jacksonville and two daughters, Camilla Louise Cox, of Fort Lauderdale, Fla., and Scharles Jeanette Cox of Raleigh.

Running a business as a singlemother in the early 1970s showed the determination of Cox, said Sue Williams, past president of the Greenville-Pitt County Association of Realtors.

“She was very independent, and she could take care of things herself,” Williams said. “She was always busy. ... She was feisty. She gave it all she had.”

Cox was the first woman elected president as the Greenville-Pitt County Association of Realtors, was Realtor of the Year in 1976 and was named an honorary lifetime member of the chamber of commerce. She also was charter president of the Greater Greenville Kiwanis Club in 1988-89.

David French, president of the Greenville-Pitt County Association of Realtors, hailed Cox’s contributions to both the profession and Greenville.

“She really paved the way for women in real estate,” French said. “She entered at a time when it was dominated by men, so in that aspect she was a pioneer. And her contributions, I think, to the city of Greenville and East Carolina University is really where she made her mark.”

Cox was a big supporter of ECU athletics and was one of five people putting up funds for the brick marquee at the corner of Greenville and Charles boulevards.

“She also was instrumental in helping bring in new business to Greenville, both commercial and industrial, Corey said.

“She would look for clients outside of Greenville and bring them to Greenville and sell them on Greenville, and they would end up staying here,” she said. “She was probably one of the biggest ambassadors Greenville had in the ’70s and ’80s.”

Business associates recalled Cox as professional.

“She was pretty businesslike,” David Evans of Garrie Evans Lumber Co. said, “She was very knowledgeable in real estate.”

Williams gained a respect for Cox during the 26 years she knew her.

“Her famous slogan years ago was ‘Thanks a lot Jeanette.’ She used to advertise that years and years ago. That’s what I think about when I think about her.”

David French, president, Greenville-Pitt County Association of Realtors

“She really paved the way for women in real estate.”

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ECU CAMPUS

Student arrested in assault

East Carolina University Police officers investigated a report that an 18-year-old female student received minor injuries when she was punched in the nose by a stranger at Chamberlain-Pigford Court on the college campus on Sunday.

Campus police arrested ECU student Amber Brittany Sheriff, 21, of 1015 Perkin Road in Troy and charged her with simple assault.
Sheriff was released from the Pitt County Detention Center on a $750 bond.
Also reported to ECU police:

Larceny

Campus police responded to a report that someone stole video game equipment valued at $470 from a 19-year-old student in Jones Hall on March 31.
Country singer Lee Greenwood belts a few tunes for Fred Smith, a GOP candidate for governor, at rally

By Ginger Livingston
The Daily Reflector

WINTERVILLE — Raw oysters, fried shrimp and Lee Greenwood drew more than 60 people to Wimpie's Steam Bar and Cajun Cafe on Tuesday for a rally for Republican gubernatorial candidate Sen. Fred Smith.

Greenwood, a Grammy-award winning singer-songwriter, joked with Smith and performed a number of his hits. Greenwood will appear at 19 events for Smith, a state senator from Johnston County. Smith is one of five Republicans seeking the party's nomination for governor.

The rallies with Greenwood, which have included stops in New Bern and Washington, are a fun way to connect with voters, Smith said, and a chance to delve into his platform.

"This is the exclamation point," Smith said. "In a 30-second TV ad you can't tell people anything substantial."

Greenwood said he's solicited to support many candidates. He's helping Smith because the state senator is a "man's man."

"He's good and caring and overcame battles," Greenwood said.

"North Carolina has been a good state to me in my career. I sold a lot of records here and I knew I had fans and thought I could make a difference."

Campaigning in the eastern part of the state has been important for Smith.

"We believe eastern North Carolina can have an impact in the Republican primary," he said.

"We decided early on we weren't going to just concentrate on high population, urban counties, but every county in the state."

Smith's wife, Jean, opened the rally singing "The Star-Spangled Banner." Later, members of East Carolina University's Kappa Alpha Fraternity saluted Smith, a brother, from the Wake Forest University house.

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Taft earns endorsements

The lone woman seeking the Democratic nomination for state Senate District 5 was endorsed Tuesday by Greenville's former mayor and her ex-husband.

Kathy Taft has leadership experience and is knowledgeable about issues involving the economy and public education, said former Mayor Don Parrott and Tom Taft, a Greenville attorney.

"Kathy's experience on the Pitt County Board of Education and the State Board of Education has given her the insight she needs to focus on improving our schools," said Taft, who also served in the state Senate in the mid-1980s.

Taft said his former wife will reflect the values of faith, family, honesty and hard work.

"She knows we need change in Raleigh. We need leadership who will emphasize accountable, responsible government without raising taxes and increasing spending," he said.

"She is the mother of my children and I have a great deal of respect for her. She has the experience, background and leadership we need fighting for us in Raleigh."

Parrott said Taft has the understanding and ability to address the economic stresses facing middle class families.

"Kathy knows our working families are feeling the pinch of high gasoline and grocery prices. She is committed to helping our middle class—not the special interest groups in Raleigh," Parrott said.

Dalton tours Brody

State Sen. Walter Dalton, Democratic candidate for lieutenant governor, said he endorses plans to build a new family practice center at East Carolina University.

Dalton toured ECU's Brody School of Medicine on Monday with Tom Taft, a former state senator, and East Carolina University's Board of Trustees member David Brody.

After touring the center, Dalton called for funding a new family practice facility.

"ECU is providing a vital service to our state, especially rural and Eastern North Carolina," Dalton said in a news release. "Brody School of Medicine consistently ranks as one of the best medical schools for primary and family care in the nation. I strongly believe we should ensure that ECU continues to provide the best training and care for eastern North Carolina and a new family practice center will help facilitate those goals."

Dalton, who chairs the appropriations committee in the Senate, also cited the need to fully fund the remaining portion of ECU's new dental school. He was on hand for the school's groundbreaking in late February.

"Brody has been fulfilling its mission to bring more doctors and better health care to rural North Carolina and the dental school will soon continue that tradition by bringing more dentists to rural areas that have no dentists or are underserved," Dalton said.

Democrats to host party

The Pitt County Democratic Party is hosting a fundraiser Saturday at the Pitt County Shrine Club.

Called "Kickin' Up Your Heels with Democratic Friends," the event is celebrating the contributions of the Democratic Party and some of its longtime members.

"We're trying to get people geared up and get excited about the election," said Jackie Wooten, an event organizer.

The main entertainment will be notable sharing stories of past campaigns. Recognitions also will be presented to longtime party activists. A social hour is scheduled at 6 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m.

Tickets are $25 per person and sponsorships are available for $100, $150, $250, $500 and higher.

The Shrine Club is located at 569 Iris Lane, Winterville, just off Evans Street Extension.

For more information, call Wooten at 825-0911 or Ann Huggins at 757-1444.