

Feature:

Homecoming 1991 brings fun times to high school: **Page 10**

Sports:

Pirates take lead, can't hold on against Manteo: **Page 6**

Community:

'Suitehearts' is laugh-a-minute comedy: **Page 3**

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Volume 60, No. 45

Hertford, Perquimans County, N.C., Thursday, November 7, 1991

30 Cents

Briefs School board: Byrum stays

Friendship Club to meet

The Friendship Senior Club will meet on Tuesday, Nov. 12 at 2 p.m. at the Senior Center. New members are welcomed, but you must be at least 55 years old.

Open House planned

Parents will have a chance to go back to school the night of Thursday, Nov. 21 at Perquimans High School. The faculty and staff invite parents to a short musical program and afterwards to meet their children's teachers. Teachers will be on hand in their classrooms to share classroom goals and activities and to give parents the opportunity to view student displays. The program will begin at 7:30 p.m.

Concert to be held

In honor of Veterans Day, the COA Community Band, which is conducted by David Ziemba, will hold a free concert on Monday, Nov. 11 at 7 p.m. at Southgate Mall.

Jim Hunt visits Hertford

Jim Hunt, who will appear on the Democratic ticket in the May gubernatorial primary, will be in Hertford on Wednesday, Nov. 13 at 2 p.m. Hunt's visit is part of a sweep through North-eastern North Carolina. He expects to be at the courthouse for about an hour to meet with voters.

Arrests

The Perquimans County Sheriff's Department reported the following arrests:

Oct. 24: Armenta Godfrey, 50, of Route 2, Box 310, Hertford, was arrested and charged with two counts of worthless checks on a Chowan County criminal summons.

Oct. 29: Clyde Elliott, 34, of Route 2, Box 916, Hertford, was arrested and charged with communicating threats. He was released on a written promise to appear.

Page Walker Stone, 34, of 303 Wynn Fork Rd., Hertford, was arrested and charged with passing a worthless check on a Pasquotank County criminal summons.

Oct. 30: Delores Ivey Markham, 36, of Route 4, Box 239, Hertford, was arrested and charged with passing a worthless check on a Pasquotank County criminal summons.

Cynthia Chappell Brashears, 36, of P.O. Box 124, Belvidere, was arrested and charged with one county of felony welfare fraud and five counts of passing worthless checks on a Brunswick County summons. She was confined to Albemarle District Jail under a \$1,500 secured bond.

Fresh Start offered

Albemarle Hospital will be sponsoring the American Cancer Society's "Fresh Start" smoking cessation program in preparation for the Great American Smokeout on Nov. 21.

The program will be presented on four consecutive Tuesday evenings beginning Nov. 5 and ending Nov. 26.

Registration fee is \$10, payable to the American Cancer Society. The fee will be refunded to participants who attend all four sessions.

Pre-registration is required. Call 335-0531 ext. 5239 for more information or to sign-up.

Board of education chairman Clifford Winslow and schools superintendent Randall Henion denied rumors circulating throughout the county that high school principal William Byrum was to be ousted during Monday night's school board meeting.

Word of the plan struck a raw nerve in Perquimans County and brought a standing-room only crowd to the meeting that spilled into the hallways of the schools administration building. At least a dozen people spoke out in support of Byrum.

Winslow opened the meeting by saying that the rumors were not true.

"There is a rumor being circulated that this meeting is to fire William Byrum. That is not true," Winslow said. "It's as far from the truth as anything possibly can be...I don't know how these things (rumors) get started...This is just a false rumor. It's unfortunate that this thing has gotten out in the community like it has."

Immediately after Winslow made his comments and opened the floor, those gathered began to ask about a related rumor that Byrum was scheduled for reassignment. Winslow said the board had not discussed a move.

"He (Byrum) does a fine job where he is," Andrea Boone said, after which prolonged applause filled the room.

Teachers, former teachers who worked under Byrum, parents, community leaders and students spoke in support of Byrum and the job he does.

"I do not think it would be in the best interest of Perquimans County or the present student body or those to come to transfer William Byrum in any capacity," said Gilliam Underwood. Byrum was principal when Underwood taught at Perquimans High School. Underwood told board members that he thought five times as many people would attend the next board meeting should Byrum be reassigned or removed. He advised them to consider the comments from those gathered and "walk softly."

Retired educator Joe Tunnell also spoke on Byrum's behalf. Tunnell said he worked under seven principals, including Byrum, and that Byrum was one of the best. "Nobody in this county can fill his shoes. I hope you pay attention to that," Tunnell said.

Milton Long, the parent of a student at the high school, said that Byrum is not only re-



Photo by Nancy Royden-Clark

Perquimans County High School principal William Byrum was surrounded by supporters at Monday night's board of education meeting. Rumors that the board planned to fire or reassign Byrum struck a raw nerve with county residents. The board denied the rumors during the meeting.

spected in the local school district, but is held in high regard in other systems. Long said it would be a disservice to the community to force Byrum to step down.

High school faculty members Sherry Smith and Jane Puryear pushed board members for a guarantee that Byrum will not be removed from his post without his consent.

"I know Mr. Byrum is a living legend in Perquimans County," Henion commented. "...I was very disappointed that this rumor expanded."

Henion continued, "I'm not going to go in and force Mr. Byrum out...He has made Perquimans County High School. He transcends generations."

Jimmy Hunter asked in whom the authority to reassign or terminate a principal is vested. Henion said he is only empowered to fire the finance officer. Other terminations must be approved by the school board, he added.

"The last person in the county that I would dismiss would be William Byrum," Henion said.

School board member Wayne Howell said he could not make

any decision on Byrum's disposition that Byrum himself did not approve.

"I tonight was just as shocked as many of you to hear the rumor," said Walter Leigh, the most recently elected member of the school board. "As a new board member, there was no idea in my mind about doing anything to William Byrum."

Board member Ben Hobbs added that he would vote on whatever decisions might come before the board concerning Byrum with Byrum's approval.

Winslow said that while the board must think about replacing Byrum when he decides to retire, the board had not discussed removing him.

"The board as a whole has not discussed it," Winslow said.

Winslow did admit that he and Henion have discussed what will happen when Byrum does decide to retire. He said it is the responsibility of the board to prepare for Byrum's retirement to insure a smooth transition at the high school. But, Winslow stated, he does not think Byrum should be removed. He stated later in the meeting that he did not think any decision would be made

about Byrum without Byrum's approval.

Parents Helen Hunter and Brenda Bass told the board that the sudden shuffling of principals prior to the 1990-91 school year caught parents by surprise, and those moves had made parents especially wary when word of Byrum's possible reassignment began to circulate. They both said parents want to know when these types of decisions are considered.

With those comments came complaints about the reassignment of the other administrators. High school faculty members and parents said Henry Felton should not have been removed from the high school as assistant principal. Others said that Gary Stubbins should have continued to serve at the middle school.

Barbara Nixon told the board members that they are elected officials who serve at the will of the people, and that they should remember that when making decisions. She added that it would be easier to replace the entire board than to replace William Byrum.

Stacy Whitley spoke on behalf of the students at Perquimans High School. Whitley said Byrum instills pride in the students, and has helped raise SAT scores and decrease the dropout rate. "Unless he decides he wants to leave, we would like for him to continue," Whitley said.

"We've all heard 'If it ain't broke, don't fix it,' and Mr. Byrum is working beautifully. Leave the man alone," Anna Smith said.

Nixon asked the board to go on record in support of Byrum because of the tremendous support shown for him at the meeting. Winslow said that action would be "out of line" and he would not do that.

After almost an hour of discussion, Byrum was asked to speak. He said he was humbled by the show of support. His retirement will come in a minimum of two years, he said. Byrum said that he had spoken with Henion Sunday night and Monday and would work under him and with him in the best interest of the students, "preferably those at Perquimans County High School."

Byrum's comments were met with a standing ovation.

The board ended their meeting with an executive session to discuss personnel matters, but took no action when they reconvened into regular session.

ELECTION

'91

Municipal election results**Hertford**

Mayor	
John Beers	450
Council, 4 year terms (2)	
Carlyn Lewis Brown	229
Larry Seymour Chappell	297
Jesse Harris	201
Billy L. Winslow	313

Council, 2 year term (1)

Franky Brown	042
Sid Eley	236
John H. London	209
Joe T. White Jr.	066

Winfall

Mayor	
C.W. "Bill" Bartlett	056
Council (2)	
Jake Chesson	051
Bert Hayes	048
Richard "Dick" Kellar*	009
* withdrew from race	

Noise is problem in Snug Harbor

Noise is a problem in their community, and several Snug Harbor residents asked the Perquimans County Board of Commissioners Monday morning to put an ordinance on the books that will help to alleviate it.

Spokesperson Coy Henderson submitted a petition signed by over 100 residents requesting an anti-noise ordinance covering certain situations such as loud music late at night. Henderson said amplifiers have been set up in some yards and turned up very loud, sometimes blaring until the wee hours of the morning. He said on one occasion he asked a group to turn the music down and they did, but it was turned back up about half an hour later. He also said that the loud music has been played until as late as 4 a.m.

Henderson told the commissioners that the group was concerned about a possible confrontation between residents trying to sleep and the late-night loud music lovers if no action was taken.

According to Henderson, the noise problem is not coming from full-time residents in Snug Harbor, but mainly from young people whose relatives own second homes in the subdivision.

Sheriff's deputies have responded to calls, Henderson said, but there is little that can be done without an ordinance on the books, law enforcement officials have told the concerned residents.

The commissioners reminded the residents that they will need to be willing to file formal charges and testify in court to help stop the problem.

The commissioners instructed county attorney John Matthews to review ordinances in other Albemarle area counties which have been recently enacted.

Basketball begins

The Perquimans Recreation department is now beginning basketball registration for all interested youth ages 9-15. Deadline for registration is Friday, Dec. 6. Tryouts will be on Dec. 7. Fee is \$7. For more information or to register, call 426-5695.

Chappell, Eley, Winslow elected in Hertford

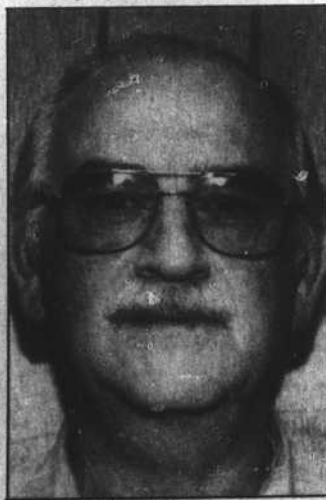
Beers, all Winfall candidates run unopposed



Larry Chappell



Sid Eley



Billy Winslow

Two new faces will be around the Hertford Town Council table beginning in December. Larry S. Chappell and Sid Eley were elected to seats Tuesday. Incumbent Billy L. Winslow was re-elected. John Beers, who ran unopposed, will serve as mayor.

Four candidates ran for the two four-year terms up for bids, incumbents Winslow and Jesse L. Harris and challengers Chappell and Carlyn L. Brown were vying for the seats. Winslow received the most votes with 313, or 30 percent of the 1,040 votes cast. Chappell captured 28 percent, or 297 votes. Brown garnered 229 votes, 22 percent of

those cast. Harris got 201 votes, 19 percent.

"I am grateful to the people of the town of Hertford for the confidence they have once again shown in me, and I will do the very best job that I can in representing them as their councilman," Winslow said after the vote was posted on the Perquimans County courthouse door.

Winslow added that he appreciated the candidates who ran with him for running such good campaigns. "It was a pleasure for me to run with them," he said. The 20-year veteran said he'd never seen candidates work as hard during an election

as most did this year.

"I'd like to thank everyone who supported me," Chappell said. "With the changes on the board, I believe that we as a council can fulfill our needs in the town."

A two-year seat was also up for grabs. The seat was made available when John Beers resigned halfway through his four-year term to run for mayor. Eley will fill that position. Also running for the two-year slot were John London, Joe White and Franky Brown. Eley received 236 of the 573 votes cast, or 41 percent. London came in second, with 209, or 36 percent, of

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 PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

119 W. Grubb St.

426-5728