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# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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35 Cents

## Fly like the wind



Central School students ran as fast as they could last Friday during field day competition. Each class was decked out in field day T-shirts sporting class colors. Posters made by the classes with slogans like "Ralph's Rockets" and "Parker's Purple Power" decorated chairs by each classroom's designated cheering section. (Photo by Susan Harris)

## Exercisers should exercise caution

Sheriff Joe Lothian said last week walkers and joggers should exercise caution along with their muscles.

"With milder weather comes a dramatic increase in outdoor activities," Lothian said. "A major portion of this notable increase in outdoor activity is persons walking and jogging. Exercising is certainly good for your health, but it can also be hazardous to your health if it causes you to become a crime victim."

Lothian offered some tips which can help those who enjoy the outdoors from becoming a walking crime statistic:

\*Avoid walking or jogging alone at night. The common sense adage that there is "safety in numbers" applies even on the streets of this small community at night.

\*Avoid running or walking on dimly lit streets and stay out of alleys. Don't use remote or little-traveled shortcuts.

\*Stay in the part of the sidewalk close to the street and away from shrubbery, trees and doorways. Sometimes, it is even safer to walk in the street - always facing oncoming traffic - rather than on the sidewalk.

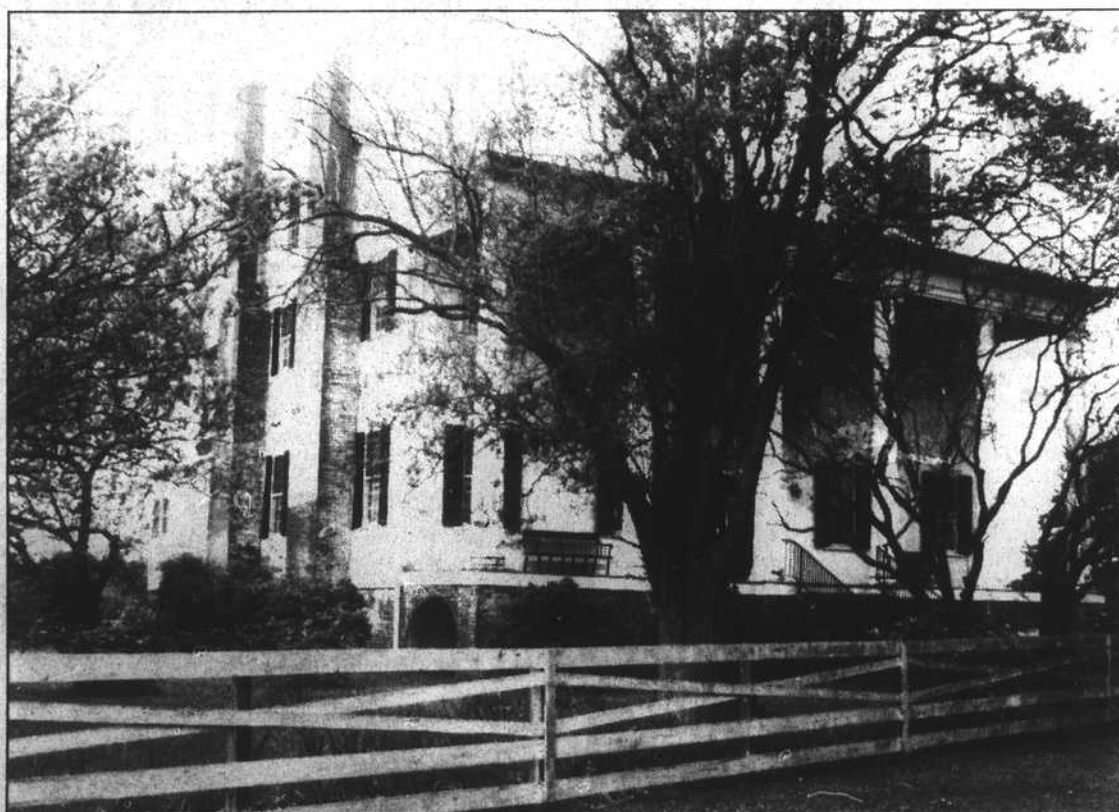
\*Always wear reflective clothing at night.

\*It is advisable for women to carry whistles or other noise makers to sound loudly if accosted.

"Lastly, we always advise anyone out walking, jogging or bicycling to carry proper identification with them," Lothian added. "This should include your current address, phone number and person to notify in case of an emergency anytime you are away from your home."

The sheriff's warning comes on the heels of assaults and at least one purse snatching in the county, both inside and outside the municipal limits of Hertford.

## Celebration site



Cove Grove will welcome guests on June 5 to *An Old Neck Celebration*, an evening of traditional southern fare and entertainment. Guests will dine on roast pork and enjoy music and dancing under the huge, old shade trees that grace the lawn. The event is sponsored by the Old Neck Historic District Committee of the Perquimans County Restoration Association to raise funds for research necessary to apply for National

Register of Historic Places inclusion. The committee plans to submit an application covering at least six historic buildings. Two are individually on the register. The house will not be open for tours during the gala. For ticket information, call the Newbold-White historic site. (File photos by Susan Harris)

## Library plans Memorial Day program

A Memorial Day Program will be held at the Perquimans County Library on Thursday, May 27 at 7:30 p.m. The program will combine music and literary readings commemorating the sacrifices that Americans have made in war throughout the history of the United States.

The music will be a combination of folk and period popular pieces and performed by Barney Pilgrim, the visiting artist at the College of The Albemarle, and

Shelley Fearn, Perquimans County librarian. Local veterans will read from selected passages. The program is expected to last about an hour.

"War has either indirectly or directly touched the lives of most every American," said librarian Shelley Fearn. "Little is done to recognize the horrors, the sacrifices, and the terrible toll that war takes on both the service person and the families. It is hoped that this program will pro-

vide a reflective outlet and a remembrance of those whose

contributions we have so long taken for granted."

The public is invited and encouraged to attend. However, because of the seriousness of the topic and the graphic descriptiveness of some of the readings, it is not recommended for small children.

## Smith returns to classroom

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

Sharon M. "Sherry" Smith cleared what she considers the first hurdle in her battle to remain on the faculty of Perquimans High School Monday, when she returned to her classroom for the first time in 10 weeks.

The 39-year-old special education teacher was suspended with pay by schools superintendent Randall L. Henion on March 15 pending an investigation into misconduct allegations. Smith denies the allegations. She had not stepped foot in her classroom again until Monday.

Smith said Sunday that Henion called her Wednesday and asked to meet with her in his office at 3 p.m. that day. During the meeting, Smith said Henion told her she could return to the classroom as early as Thursday. Smith said she chose to begin teaching again on Monday.

"I'm very happy that the first step in the process of getting my job back has been taken," Smith said.

Although Smith was allowed to return to the classroom, the decision made by the board of education on May 17 not to renew Smith's contract has not been overturned. If the board takes no further action, Smith's last day with the school system

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Sharon M. Smith  
Teacher

will be June 18.

School board chairman L. Wayne Howell said Tuesday it would be inappropriate for him to discuss the particulars of the case. He did, however, comment that the suspension, investigation and Smith's return to the classroom were all handled in accordance with public school law. He said both Henion and the board acted on the advice of Ken Soo, a Raleigh attorney whose firm represents the school board on matters of public school law. Howell added that the board members felt that they had taken the appropriate action on behalf of the students in the schools based on information provided to them by the administration and legal representatives.

Henion said last week that he could not comment on matters relating to personnel.

## Winborne keeps teaching job

## No nonrenewal action taken by school board

By SUSAN R. HARRIS  
Editor

A Perquimans Middle School teacher who refused to resign last week at the request of schools superintendent Randall L. Henion will teach in the county next year.

Rita Winborne, a sixth grade language arts teacher, said Sunday that the school board has renewed her contract.

School board chairman L. Wayne Howell said Tuesday that her contract was automatically renewed because the board took no nonrenewal action at their May 17 meeting.

Winborne said she was glad to have the chance to teach here again next year.

"I'm happy to be back," she said, adding, "I think it was unnecessary that it (the resignation request) happened."

Winborne was one of three middle school teachers called in Monday afternoon during class time and asked by Henion to resign by the end of the day. Nancy Patrick and Leigh Ann Long, first and second year eighth grade teachers, respectively, complied with the request.

Sources said all three teachers had received standard or above standard performance evaluations, and none of the three expected that their contracts would not be renewed prior to meeting Henion in co-principal Morris Kornegay's office last Monday.

When word of Winborne's

resignation request began spreading last Monday, she said parents immediately started contacting her to offer support.

"I'm extremely appreciative for everything that's been said (on my behalf) by the parents and my students, and the support of other teachers," winborne said.

Parents contacted by *The Perquimans Weekly* said they support Mrs. Winborne.

"I'd want to hear a reason, and it would have to be a good reason, not to stand behind Mrs. Winborne," said Deborah Byrum, the mother of one of Mrs. Winborne's students. "I have visited her class. She made learning fun. Learning was creative. My daughter has really enjoyed her class."

Lou Ann Winslow, the parent of another of Mrs. Winborne's students, agreed with Byrum.

"I have been thoroughly satisfied with her all year," Winslow said. "She works them (the students) hard, but she makes it fun."

Several other parents contacted all said they had been pleased with what their children had learned under Mrs. Winborne and the quality of her teaching. None made negative comments.

All three teachers declined comment on what action, if any, they might take regarding the resignation requests.

## Bootstrap presents comedy

The Bootstrap Acting Company will offer a comedy in sync with the season when John Patrick's *A Bad Year for Tomatoes* opens on June 18 at Angler's Cove Restaurant.

The dinner theater will feature Jean Norvelle, Frank Edmunds, Celeste Gray, Julie Feeney, Norma McMullan, Terry Owens and Billy White. Pat Phillips will direct the play. Mona

Sadler is the producer.

Find out what happens when a long-time television star retires to Small Town U.S.A. to write a book and raise tomatoes in this summer production.

Tickets are \$15 for a buffet dinner and show. For reservations, call 426-9295 or 426-7294. Show dates are June 18, 19, 20, 25, 26 and 27 and July 2 and 4.