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PCHS teams in tourney; cheerleaders win competition: **Pages 6, 7**

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Royal couple



Virgie Hollowell and Carson Banks were crowned King and Queen of Hearts at Brian Center last Thursday. Residents, staff and friends paid 10 cents per vote to stand behind the king and queen of their choices. The effort was part of Brian Center's Heart Month fundraising effort. (Photo by Susan Harris)

Byrum will leave PCHS

Principal to transfer to central office

By **SUSAN R. HARRIS**
Editor

William E. Byrum will not sit in the principal's office at Perquimans County High School when teachers and students arrive for classes in August.

Perquimans County Schools Superintendent Randall L. Henion announced Friday morning at a press conference that Byrum will transfer to the central office on June 30.

"It's time for me to hang up one set of shoes and put on another one," Byrum said during the press conference. "I followed two good men, E.C. Woodard and Ike Perry, and it's time for somebody else to leave that school and it's time for me to look for different challenges and grow in other directions."

Byrum emphasized that the transfer came at his request. He said no one suggested to him that he leave the high school, nor was he coerced into making the request.

"Until Monday, no one knew about this (decision) except my wife," Byrum said. "I think I surprised Dr. Henion."

Henion said he and Byrum discussed the transfer request several times last week.

"He stated in a letter to me earlier this week that he is making this request in the hope that as he nears the end of his career in education, he can experience additional challenges in other areas of education and that this announcement would allow for a timely transfer of leadership at Perquimans County High School," Henion said.

Henion said Byrum has seen an incredible amount of change since he was appointed principal at the school in 1964.

"Think of what has happened over the years since Mr. Byrum began at P.H.S. in 1960," Henion said. "It was 1960 when John F. Kennedy was elected President of the United States. It was the same time that the Kennedy administration pledged to have a man on the moon by the end of the decade and the famous statement, 'Ask not what your country can do for you; but what you can do for your country.' Mr. Byrum took his challenge very seriously and has served Perquimans County very well for 34 years, not thinking what the county could do for him, but what he could do for his county. With his extensive background, he has a great deal to offer Perquimans County."

"He has touched virtually every family in Perquimans County in one way or other over the years."

Henion said administrators are still working on a specific title and job duties for Byrum. He said he will have an active role at the central office and work from



William E. Byrum (left) requested a transfer from his post as principal of Perquimans High School to the central office effective June 30. Schools superintendent Randall L. Henion announced the transfer at a press conference Friday. Byrum has served as principal at the school for 30 years. (Photo by Susan Harris)

a county-wide perspective.

Byrum graduated from Perquimans High School in 1956 and returned as a teacher in 1960. He was appointed principal in December 1964 following the death of E.C. Woodard. He

has held the post continually since that time.

Henion said the school system will advertise the position opening at the high school across the state.

Newbold-White celebrates 25 years as historic site

Restoration Association seeks county residents' interest in site

The Perquimans County Restoration Association will celebrate Newbold-White's 25th year as a historic site this month.

Once considered just a real old house outfitted with several modernizations over the years, local historians believed that the house on the Newbold farm was a diamond in the rough. After many years of hard work, research and fundraising, the group now tags the historic site "A Perquimans Jewel."

The oldest house in North Carolina, Newbold-White was probably built about 1685 by Joseph Scott, a planter, magistrate and legislator. Scott was one of the few persons mentioned by name in George Fox's journal of 1672, and he was among the organizers of North Carolina's first church (Quaker). Scott's widow invited the local court to hold its sessions in the house in the 1690s, an invitation soon extended to all the colony's courts and to the General Assembly of 1697. The house remains the only surviving meeting place of 17th-century Carolina executive-legislative-judicial bodies.

Restoration on the house began in 1973. The North Carolina Society, Colonial Dames of the XVII Century has assisted with furnishing the house in a manner reflecting its 17th century

heritage.

The David Newby Cottage, which now serves as the home of the on-site historian and overseer, Steve Allen, was moved to the site from the New Hope community in 1974.

The Perquimans Heritage Center, built to resemble a period barn, serves as a visitor's center and gift shop at the site. The meeting room provides space for Restoration Association activities, and is also available for a fee for public use.

While Newbold-White's guest register bears addresses from all over the United States and even some foreign countries, Restoration Association members say there are many in Perquimans County who have never toured the historic treasure. Because of this, the association has planned a 25th anniversary celebration on March 7 and 8 especially for local residents. A soup and sandwich lunch will be served on March 7 from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. That evening, a wine and cheese party is set for 5-7 p.m. A second soup-and-

sandwich lunch is planned for March 8. Tours of the site will be available. Door prizes will be given during the celebration.



The Perquimans County Restoration Association is celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Newbold-White historic site designation. Through research, fundraising and a lot of hard work, the Restoration association renovated North Carolina's oldest

house in 1973. Since that time, the David Newby Cottage and Perquimans Center have been added to the complex. The association wants all the 'home folks' to come and celebrate the historic landmark next week. (File photo)

Nixon attends Farm Bureau meeting

Wayne Nixon of Perquimans County was among the local Farm Bureau presidents who recently attended the organization's annual presidents meeting in Raleigh.

The local delegates were updated on the major agricultural issue concerns and priorities for the organization. Priority issues for 1994 include private property rights, health care reform, the national budget and the 1995 Farm Bill.

During the meeting, Governor Jim Hunt sought Farm Bureau support for his crime package presently being debated

in the North Carolina General Assembly.

North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation President Bob Jenkins said that the organization supports in principle the governor's program, and has contacted all state legislators asking for their serious consideration of the proposals.

North Carolina Commissioner of Agriculture Jim Graham told the Farm Bureau presidents that funding must be a balanced proposition.

"Financing this worthy effort must not come at the total expense of agricultural programs,"

Graham said. "Crime is a universal problem and costs should be evenly divided."

The national debate over tobacco taxes was also on the meeting agenda. Both Hunt and Graham said they support the Domestic Content Law which would require that no more than 25 percent of domestically produced cigarettes can contain foreign-produced tobacco. The pair also opposes any additional taxes on tobacco.



Perquimans County Farm Bureau president Wayne Nixon (right) talks with North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation president W.B. Jenkins at the annual Farm Bureau presidents meeting in Raleigh recently. The agriculture group discussed priorities and issues relating to farming during the meeting. (Submitted photo)