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# PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## Newbold-White House to be partly dismantled

Restoration specialist to seek causes, extent of structural damage

LUANNE PENDERGRAFT

Restoration specialists will dismantle portions of the 1730 Newbold-White House on Aug. 19 — 21 to determine the causes and extent of recently discovered structural damage to the eighteenth-century building.

The Newbold-White House, North Carolina's oldest brick house and the oldest house in the state opened to the public, is considered one of North Carolina's most notable historic preservation accomplishments.

In recent months, restoration specialists have discovered extensive problems in the house including masonry deterioration, increased moisture in the masonry walls, and termite damage and activity in the beams, floorboards and other wooden elements.

Conducting the in-depth study will be Dean A. Ruedrich, principal of Ruedrich Restorations. His work will include removing and examining floorboards, wall sheathing, and exterior fascia boards. Ruedrich is well known across the state for his experience and knowledge of historic building restoration and conservation. The house will remain dismantled until funds can be raised to complete repairs. The house and entire historic site will be open during the restoration work.

Following close inspections of the Newbold-White House in the spring of 2003 by Reid Thomas and Mitch Wilds, restoration specialists with the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources, State Historic Preservation Office, it was determined that due to the unforeseen nature of the effects of the restoration, the building was continuing to lose original and irreplaceable fabric.

In Thomas' report, he praised PCRA for extraordinary efforts to save and restore the Newbold-White House and noted that the Association has shown great stewardship in maintaining the property. At the suggestion of Thomas, the Board of the Perquimans County Restoration Association has begun a careful and thorough, "museum-quality," approach to the conservation of the historic resource.

"The PCRA Board is committed to preserving the Newbold-White House to the highest quality to ensure its preservation for future generations," said

Chris Lane, president of the Perquimans County Restoration Association. "We anticipate that the cost to restore the building will be significant and we are asking for financial support for this crucial undertaking."

As part of PCRA's commitment to a careful study of the situation, Jimmy Price, a nationally known restoration brick mason, also examined the condition of the building. Price concluded that a probable cause of the moisture-related problems is the cement-based mortar that was used during the restoration in the 1970s. According to Price, cement-based mortars can trap moisture inside the walls subsequently leading to numerous problems.

At the time of the restoration in the 1970s and until very recently, the cement-based mortars were widely used and considered acceptable as restoration mortars. Since that time, restoration specialists have determined that a traditional lime-based mortar is preferable.

In addition to structural repairs, the PCRA Board anticipates that the historic house will also require the removal of the restoration period mortar and the repointing of the exterior with traditional lime-based mortar.

A cost estimate for the restoration work will be determined after the analysis by Ruedrich is completed.

The second floor of the Newbold-White House will remain dismantled until repairs can be made. This provides a unique opportunity for visitors to examine parts of the house usually only viewable to historic preservationists.

"We see this as a wonderful opportunity to display a different dimension of this important house," said Lane. "We encourage visitors to see the house while it is undergoing the restoration."

The Newbold-White House is operated by the Perquimans County Restoration Association, a not-for-profit educational organization. The house was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1971 and over the next decade PCRA embarked on an ambitious campaign to restore the property. In 1981 the work was completed and the house opened to the public.

Today, the Newbold-White House Historic Site tells the story of Abraham and Judith Sanders, a Quaker couple who raised their six children on the site.

The site will maintain regular tour hours during restoration: Tuesday — Saturday, 10 a.m. — 4:30 p.m.; and Sunday, 2 — 5 p.m. The site is located just off of Hwy 17 in Historic Hertford. Contact the site at 426-7567 or nbwh@inteliport.com for more information.

## BACK TO SCHOOL



Over 1,700 students headed back to school last Wednesday, some accompanied by parents and some getting special welcomes by school principals like Central School administrator Billy Stallings (right).

## School opens smoothly

Faculty, students and parents enjoyed a smooth opening of school with the exception of a few minor transportation problems, according to schools Public Information Officer Brenda Lassiter.

Administrators attributed last Wednesday's smooth opening to the commitment of faculty and staff and to the summer programs offered through the 21st Century Learning Centers.

One of the summer programs, Jump Start, allowed students moving from school to school (grades 3, 6 and 9) to attend a two-week program to help them become familiar with their teachers and new school environment.

The local schools experienced an increase in student enrollment this year. The 2002-03 school year ended with a student enrollment of 1,672 students, and the attendance on the second day of this school year was 1,727. According to Lassiter, several children from home-schooled environments have enrolled.

"Faculty and staff are committed to ensuring success for all students, as is evident by our recent test scores," Lassiter said. "Our students, teachers, administrators, school board and community work hard to produce knowledgeable students who are prepared to make competitive choices for their future."

With the ABCs, NCLB, and The Report Card,

Lasster said the schools are able to provide parents with pertinent information on the schools, student performance, classroom size, teacher qualifications and more.

Lassiter said the community's commitment to the schools is one of many reasons why the system has been experiencing such success. "The citizens of Perquimans County are concerned about the quality of our schools and the progress in increasing student achievement, and are actively involved to improve education for students."

This year, Perquimans Central School and Hertford Grammar School will offer extended day activities for students. The programs will operate until 6 p.m. and are funded through 21st Century. Activities will include tutoring, crafts, athletics, dance, music and art. They provide safe environments for students after school hours.

Perquimans Middle School and Perquimans High School will offer extended day tutoring and activities until 4 p.m. beginning in mid-August. The programs will be funded through S.O.S. and 21st Century and transportation will be provided.

With the new school year came changes in the leadership at middle and high schools. New administrators began the school year by holding assemblies for the student body to commu-



nicate student behavior guidelines and expectations of the students for the year.

At the high school, Principal Hans Lassiter led the Class of 2004 into the auditorium and challenged seniors to be role models for the underclassmen. He promised seniors that before leaving high school in May 2004, they would be equipped to enter college.

"You will meet with me, your guidance counselor, and your English teacher in mandatory conferences to ensure you are ready for the next level of education," said Lassiter.

He encouraged students to be well-rounded by active participation in sports and clubs, as well as academics.

Lassiter presented the new Student Behavior Demerit System being implemented this year at the high school. Parents should become familiar with the guidelines and may request a copy by calling 426-5778. During his address to the student body, Lassiter emphasized that students are expected to respect the instructional environment of the building, and that teachers are prepared to ensure that this happens.

Lassiter closed by commending his faculty and staff for their enthusiasm

in preparing for the opening of school, promising students that faculty and staff were there to provide them a free, appropriate public education.

"We will work, sweat, and cry for your education but we will not allow the misbehavior of a few students to destroy the opportunity for others," said Lassiter.

For up-to-date information on the school system, visit [www.pcs.k12.nc.us](http://www.pcs.k12.nc.us) or call Brenda Lassiter at 426-5741, ext. 239.

## WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY  
High: 87  
Low: 72  
ISOLATED T'STORMS

FRIDAY  
High: 86  
Low: 71  
ISOLATED T'STORMS

SATURDAY  
High: 85  
Low: 69  
ISOLATED T'STORMS