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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Christmas parade planned

It's Indian Summer now, but the holidays are just around the corner.

The Chamber of Commerce is planning the annual Christmas parade at its traditional time and date, the first Saturday in December at 2 p.m.

The theme of Dec. 6 parade is "Christmas Is...!" Cash prizes will be awarded to floats in several categories, including a \$100 Perquimans Weekly Best in Parade Award.

The parade will line up at Perquimans County High School and make its way downtown before ending back at the school.

Entry forms for the parade and parade guidelines are available at the Chamber office. Completed entry forms should be returned to the Chamber by Nov. 15.

For information, call the Chamber at 426-5657.

HELPING HANDS



On Oct. 13, the Circuit Riders of the United Methodist in Mission from the South Indian United Methodist Conference arrived at New Hope United Methodist Church to help church members and community residents with clean-up after Isabel. The 11-members team was composed of folks from 45 to 80 and from all walks of life. The group provided its own meals and transportation, with each member having donated \$100 for those expenses before leaving home. The crew was a welcome site in Perquimans County.

(Editor's note: Please call 426-5728 to tell us about out-of-town volunteer work crews so that we can try to recognize them all.)

Storm may cost Hertford \$500,000

SUSAN R. HARRIS

It's been over a month since Isabel wreaked havoc in Perquimans County on Sept. 18, and the town of Hertford continues to deal with the debris left by the storm.

Hundreds of trees were downed by Isabel's 100-mile-per-hour sustained winds, and roofs and out-buildings were also damaged in large numbers.

Immediately after the storm, Hertford employees and firefighters hit the streets to remove fallen trees and try to clear a path out of town.

Next, the town contracted with local businessmen to remove debris to make streets passable.

The City of Goldsboro also sent crews and equipment to help with the effort.

"They were just being a great neighbor," said Town Manager John Christensen, who said Goldsboro charged the town only for its manpower, not for its equipment.

The first wave of workmen picked up over 12,000 cubic yards of debris, Christensen said.

At that point, in order to get FEMA to reimburse the town for debris removal, a bid process was required. Storm Reconstruction Services of Alabama was awarded that bid on Oct. 10, and began work on Oct. 14.

SRS will make two passes through town within 30 days. They have two crews in town, Christensen said.

The town manager said the company should complete its first pass by mid-week next week.

"The crews from SRS started out slow," Christensen said. "They picked up the pace this week."

Christensen said Hertford residents should get storm-related debris put on the right-of-way in their yards so that SRS can pick it up when they make their passes.

The company will pick up anything storm-related such as trees, stumps, out-buildings, insulation, white goods and roofing. They will not, however, pick up anything deemed by law hazardous waste.

The contractor is taking debris to the town's site on Grubb Street. Christensen said under the town's contract with SRS, no one else is allowed to take waste to the dump site. Private haulers and residents should take debris to the county dump site behind the NCDOT facility in Winfall.

After 30 days, SRS will grind up wood materials, haul off the other debris and clean the site.

The town will begin its normal collection routes at that time.

Christensen cautioned

that the town is not equipped to pick up large items, so residents may be charged if they leave logs, stumps or other large debris after SRS has finished its work. The town has an ordinance dealing with large debris left on its streets.

The estimated cost of the work SRS will do is \$82,000.

Christensen estimated the total costs for the town for Isabel clean-up will exceed \$300,000, and may even approach \$500,000.

He said invoices from initial work are still arriving, and town maintenance officials continue to find damage and make lists of things that need to be done.

For example, Hertford and visiting Electricities crews took care of those repairs necessary to safely restore power to all residents in the two weeks after the storm.

Now, items such as damaged hardware, leaning poles and slack guy wires are being catalogued so they can be permanently fixed. Christensen said there are numerous security lights and street lights that must be repaired.

Christensen said the town's two-man electric crew worked all weekend on some repairs, but that with only two people, the town will have to contract out some of the work.

In addition, the town is getting estimates on damages to its buildings and parks.

Also underway is a review to see if and how extensively the town's wastewater system was damaged during the hurricane. Crews are having to manually start and stop water pumps.

In order for FEMA to help with repairs, the town must look at every pipe, determine problems, figure the linear feet damaged and then let contracts.

"That's why it takes so long to get back on your feet," Christensen said.

For questions about debris collection, call the town offices.

Gregory named local Teacher of the Year

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Second grade teacher Tracy Gregory was recently named the Perquimans County Schools Teacher of the Year.

Gregory was selected Teacher of the Year at Central School.

The exuberant elementary educator was influenced to become a teacher by her fourth grade teacher, a teacher who encouraged Gregory with beaming eyes a winsome smile, encouraging words, genuine concern for her students, praise and attentive listening.

Now, Gregory tries every day to use those same traits to make a difference in the life of the children in her classroom.

"I, too wanted to impact students and make a difference in the life of a child," Gregory wrote in her portfolio. "I wanted to give back what was given to me. I wanted to reach those children noted as unreachable and teach those children written off as unteachable."

Gregory uses a variety of activities and teaching strategies in her classroom to try to meet all learning styles.

She is especially strong at using technology to differentiate instruction and heighten student achievement.

She believes that all students are capable of learning and have a thirst for knowledge. Her job is to recognize each student's learning style and to find ways to teach to allow all her students to succeed.

Visitors to her classroom may at first think that students are just playing around because a student who works well alone may be working on a project at the computer, while one group is playing a game to enforce a specific objective. Another group may be writing songs to convey concepts, while another



Tracy Gregory

couple of students may be playing a board game to help them learn skills.

While not a traditional classroom, students learn and are taught using those activities that best suit their learning styles when possible.

The graduate of Elizabeth City State University earned her Masters in Elementary Education from East Carolina University and is a National Board Certified Teacher.

Gregory will now represent the county at the regional competition.

Each school chose a Teacher of the Year, and all four were interviewed by a

local panel to choose a candidate to represent the district at the next level. Judges were quite impressed with the representative from every school.

Heather Webb, music teacher at Hertford Grammar School, was chosen by her colleagues to represent HGS.

Webb always loved to sing, and made up songs and staged plays and musicals for family and friends as a child.

As she grew, she found music was a wonderful outlet for her excess energy. Supportive teachers encouraged her to further pursue her music.

Webb doesn't just teach children to sing, clap and play simple instruments. Her approach to music education allows students to explore instruments, movement, games, singing, speech and drama. She involves every child in every class for the duration of their time with her.

She works with core teachers to come up with ways to allow music to reinforce lessons learned in other subject areas.

Her Panther Percussion Team has entertained at numerous events throughout the community and even on television.

One of her most recent special projects was a dinner theater.

Webb earned her bachelor's degree from Furman University.

Laura Schroeder, science and math teacher at Perquimans Middle School, did start out to be a teacher. The lover of science earned a degree in marine biology from UNC-Wilmington.

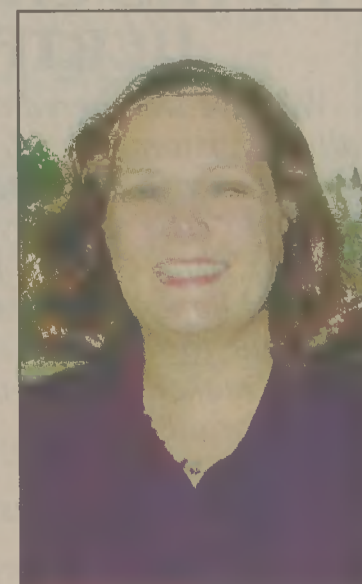
During her college years, volunteer work at a state aquarium allowed her to share her love of science with visitors. She found she was good at communicating with youth. She even worked with an education consultant to develop lessons integrating science and math.

As she continued to work with science and children, she was pulled into education. She wanted to share with students the curiosity and desire to understand the natural world that has held her enthralled for so many years.

She is constantly accessing what works and what doesn't with her students, borrowing from other teachers and changing her lesson plans to meet the needs of the students in her classes.

Schroeder teaches her

Continued on page 8



Heather Webb



Jeff Holland



Laura Schroeder

WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 64
Low: 41
MOSTLY SUNNY

FRIDAY
High: 66
Low: 45
SUNNY

SATURDAY
High: 70
Low: 52
SUNNY