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Schools make more changes

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Administrative changes have continued in Perquimans County Schools following the resignation of Hertford Grammar School Principal Edward Williams on Feb. 2.

Tim Aydlett, who served as assistant principal at the high school for the past five years, was scheduled to retire in June. Instead, Aydlett opted to go ahead and retire, and accepted a contract to serve as principal at Hertford Grammar School until June 30.

To fill the vacancy at the high school, Elonza Joyner returned to full-time employment through the end of this fiscal year. He had previously been a part-time administrator.

Also, Doug Umphlett moved into the role of acting assistant principal until the end of this school year.

Umphlett has been with the school system for 13 years, serving as at-risk coordinator before assuming his new duties.

Superintendent Ken Wells said that the system will begin advertising for a principal and an assistant principal in March. He **Continued on page 8**

GIVING KIDS A SMILE



Dr. Jack Boone and dental assistant Delores Howell perform a procedure on Hertford Grammar School student Amber Lopresti last Thursday when the dentist and his staff participated in National Give Kids a Smile Day. Dental offices across the country who chose to participate donated their time to perform procedures on children without dental insurance who otherwise might not have access to good dental care.

Dentist, staff volunteer to help kids

SUSAN R. HARRIS

The good feelings they felt last year as they helped over 20 children who might not otherwise have access to good dental care prompted Dr. Jack Boone and his staff to participate once again in National Give Kids a Smile Day.

Last Thursday, the entire

staff worked off the clock, giving their time to give youngsters in Perquimans County healthier smiles.

Twenty-two children received cleanings and exams, while staff performed 47 x-rays, 16 fluoride treatments, four restorations, two extractions and 18 sealants.

And at the end of the day,

everyone was smiling — children because they left with new toothbrushes, school and Chowan-Gates-Perquimans Partnership for Children personnel because their students received needed quality dental care, and Boone and his staff because they had met a health care need in the community.

Man gets 21 years for stabbing

Williams tried to murder PCHS teacher last May

BOB MONTGOMERY
The Daily Advance

An Elizabeth City man who nearly stabbed his estranged wife to death last May received a minimum sentence of 21 years in state prison Tuesday.

Avis Lenear Williams, 37, of 1472 Lambs Grove Road, who had a record of previous assaults and probation violations, pleaded guilty to attempted first-degree murder and a probation violation from a previous incident. He received a maximum sentence of 26 years.

The charge of assault with a deadly weapon with intent to kill and inflict serious injury was dropped

because the victim, Tonya Monique Williams, a 37-year-old Perquimans County High School biology teacher, wanted to avoid having her son testify at trial, said Assistant District Attorney Nancy Lamb.

Avis Williams was arrested by city police early on the morning of May 17, 2003, after dragging his screaming wife by the hair into the back yard of their home and then stabbing her three times. One of the stab wounds came within "less than a half-centimeter from her aorta," Lamb said.

Avis Williams, under court order to stay away from his wife, had called her an hour prior to the attack, pleading with her to drop charges from a previous probation violation. After the phone call, Tonya Williams attempted to go to sleep when she heard a noise, looked out the window, and saw her estranged husband, Lamb said. She **Continued on page 8**

Library group honors Wiggins for local service

SUSAN R. HARRIS

Shirley Wiggins never agrees to do anything until she's checked her calendar.

That's because the retiree is so involved in the community and local government she hardly ever has a free day.

Because of all she does for the area, the Friends of the Library recently named her a Special Friend of the County.

Wiggins is the third person to be honored for her contributions by the



Shirley Wiggins

Friends, a support group of the Perquimans County

Library.

After graduating valedictorian from Perquimans County Training School in Winfall (now Perquimans County Middle School), Wiggins attended nursing school at St. Agnes School of Nursing, St. Augustine College in Raleigh. She then spent 22 years in the U.S. Navy Nurse Corps, where she rose to the rank of captain.

After a stint stationed at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, Wiggins agreed to serve a one-year

tour on a hospital ship, the USS Sanctuary, in Viet Nam.

Although she had initially planned to spend just a couple of years in the Navy, Wiggins accepted the request to serve in Viet Nam because there was such a need for nurses there. It was a tough assignment, Wiggins said, but she felt she helped the young men she cared for both physically and emotionally. At 32, Wiggins said most of her patients were 18 and 19- **Continued on page 8**



Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy shows how easy it is to install a gun lock. The police and sheriff's departments will be giving them away free to those who wish to make their guns safer.

Gun locks given away

SUSAN R. HARRIS

department on Feb. 27, 9 a.m.—4 p.m.

Hertford Police Chief Dale Vanscoy is concerned that a local child may fall victim to an "unloaded gun" accident.

Vanscoy said nationwide statistics show that all too often, people — and especially children — are injured or killed when a gun thought to be unloaded discharges.

Vanscoy and Perquimans Sheriff Eric Tilley are participating in a national program aimed at preventing accidental shootings and educating the public about gun safety.

Through Project ChildSafe, both law enforcement agencies were given gun locks to distribute free to the public. The safety devices were delivered last week.

The locks will be distributed at the sheriff's department on Feb. 20, 9 a.m.—4 p.m. and at the police

Quick and easy to use, the gun locks prevent handguns and larger weapons from firing even when the **Continued on page 8**

One look brought local couple together back in 1959

Part 2 of a series

SUSAN R. HARRIS

When 13-year-old Marta Matthews spied 17-year-old Freddie Colson on the steps leading to her mother's teen center in downtown Hertford, Cupid's bow hit a bulls-eye.

"They say there's no such thing as love at first sight, but there is," Marta recalls clearly that fateful day in the summer of 1959. "He was standing on the top step and I fell in love with him right that instant."

Marta asked Bud Saunders, who knew both she and Freddie, to introduce her to the handsome young man.

Saunders did introduce them, and started a rela-



Marta and Freddie Colson today.

tionship that has lasted almost 44 years.

Ironically, years later, Bud's son would marry Marta and Freddie's daughter. But that's another Valentine's tale.



Marta and Freddie Colson prepare to go to his senior prom in 1960.

The teen center run by Marta's mother, Iilda, was responsible for many couples getting together, Marta said. As many as 200 teenagers a night went to put quarters in the jukebox, flirt, dance and drink

Cokes. They came not only from Perquimans County, but from Elizabeth City and Edenton, also.

But no matter how many teens filled that center night after night, from the moment Marta laid eyes on Freddie, she only had eyes for him.

Marta wasn't allowed to date, but she managed to see Freddie at placed like the teen center and school. After flirting for several months, Freddie kissed her on Nov. 6, 1959, what she calls her "kissing Anniversary."

"I'm just a romantic," Marta said. "I remember all these dates."

In January 1960, Marta told Freddie he could come by her house to see her.

"I couldn't date, but I **Continued on page 8**

HOLIDAY WEATHER

THURSDAY
High: 58
Low: 37
SUNNY

FRIDAY
High: 57
Low: 43
MOSTLY SUNNY

SATURDAY
High: 63
Low: 40
SCATTERED T'STORMS