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# PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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## McMullan is M. S. champ

Phil McMullan was honored in January as a 2003 Main Street Champion at the North Carolina Main Street Annual Awards Dinner in Morganton.

McMullan was selected for this special recognition by Historic Hertford, Inc. in appreciation of his exceptional contributions to the downtown revitalization process. Although unable to be present for the ceremony, McMullan, along with Champions from 34 other communities, was recognized with a certificate commemorating his designation, presented by NC Secretary of Commerce Jim Fain, Commerce Assistant Secretary for Community Development Cleve Simpson and Office of Urban Development Director Rodney L. Swink, FASLA.

Each of the state's active Main Street programs is given the opportunity annually to recognize one individual as a local Main Street Champion. The dedication and hard work of countless volunteers is required to make a local Main Street program successful, and the Main Street Champion designation acknowledges the extraordinary efforts of those persons who have played pivotal roles in the revitalization of their downtowns.

"As a member of the Heritage Tourism Task Force in 1999, Phil McMullan was involved in the decision to apply for Main Street designation and was an original member of the board of directors, beginning in 2000," state McMullan's nomination form. "At the request of the board, he has stayed beyond his term to provide a transition to the organization as it changes its status to non-profit."

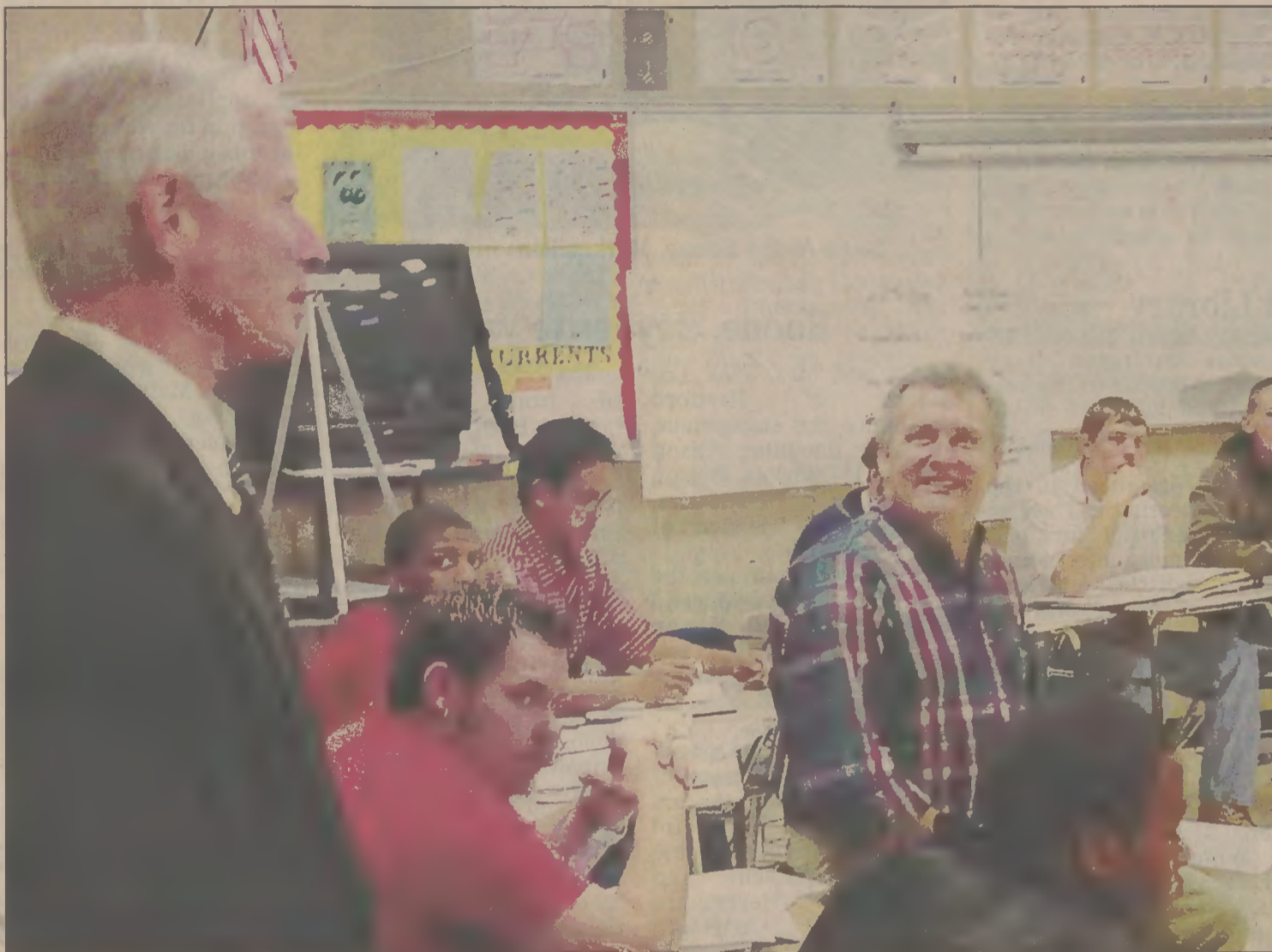
McMullan is currently vice chair of the organization and has served on numerous committees.

While he served on the Northeast Partnership Board, McMullan was the contact for tourism grants and projects beneficial to the Main Street program. With his expertise and knowledge of community resources, he continues to be a valuable resource to the organization.

"Phil is always available to volunteer his time when his expertise and leadership are needed as he has a keen sense of organizational development, which has been critical to the positive development of the organization," the nomination form continued.

Main Street is a downtown revitalization program for smaller towns based on economic development within the context of historic preservation. The North Carolina Main Street Program, which provides technical assistance to its communities, is part of the Office of Urban Development in the Department of Commerce's Division of Community Assistance.

## STATE SUPER VISITS



State Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. Mike Ward visited teachers and staff at Perquimans County High School on Monday discussing education issues. Here, he visits with Jeff Holland's English class.

## State official visits PCHS

### Ward supports senior projects

State Superintendent of the Public Schools of North Carolina Dr. Mike Ward visited teachers and staff at Perquimans County High School Monday. Ward visited each classroom discussing issues like the No Child Left Behind federal education bill, senior project requirements, distance learning opportunities and dress code with students and teachers.

The visit was a surprise for the faculty and stu-

dents.

Brandon Godfrey asked Ward if he believed the senior project should be a requirement. Ward said that the senior project is voluntary across the state as of now, allowing each school district to make that decision independently. However, there have been recent conversations discussing the possibility of making the senior project a graduation requirement statewide. Ward said he believed the senior project should be required throughout the state.

"I commend Superintendent Ken Wells for taking the lead in this area," said Ward. "I have

been acquainted with Superintendent Wells for a number of years and consider him as one of the greatest educators in the state of North Carolina. I am proud to be his colleague."

Re-elected in 2000, Ward is serving his second term in office. He is also a member of the Council of State, which includes the Governor, Lieutenant Governor and eight other statewide elected officials. During his tenure, Ward's office has worked with educators, state leaders, and communities to improve the public schools of North Carolina. As a result of these joint efforts, the

state's schools have earned a reputation as the nation's most rapidly improving system of public education.

Ward's past experience includes service as a local superintendent of schools. He has also been a teacher and high school principal. He believes strongly in the power of teaching and learning. Because of this, he regularly sets aside time to be in a classroom working with students. He is a tireless advocate for teachers and other school employees, promoting high professional standards and better rewards for the profession, according to local school officials.

## There's MERCI for those in need of assistance

SUSAN R. HARRIS

For those still struggling to make repairs to their homes wrought by Hurricane Isabel, help may be just down the road.

The Marion Edwards Recovery Center Initiatives — shortened to M.E.R.C.I. — set up a satellite disaster recovery center in Edenton four months ago to help with the unmet needs of homeowners in Bertie, Camden, Chowan, Currituck, Dare, Gates, Hertford, Hyde, Perquimans, Pasquotank, Tyrrell and Washington counties.

The center provides construction repair for people whose homes were damaged by Isabel. Assistance may be given when the needs are greater than FEMA or insurance reimbursements, and there is no other source of funds to complete the repairs.

Once set up in November, the M.E.R.C.I. Center received 55 cases from the Chowan County Interfaith Disaster and Relief Effort, Inc. Since that time, many more families have applied for help. According to M.E.R.C.I. coordinators, many of



Hurricane Isabel blew through the Albemarle area with a fury, damaging thousands of homes throughout the area. The M.E.R.C.I. Northeastn Diaster Recovery Center in Edenton is helping those unable to afford home repair.

those who apply for help are disabled and elderly who have no insurance, no money, and sometimes, even no safe place to stay while their homes are repaired.

M.E.R.C.I. is a mission program of the North Carolina Conference of the United Methodist Church. Help is available to anyone in need. People do

not have to be members of or attend a Methodist Church in order to receive assistance. There is no charge for services.

Mission teams and individual volunteers from all over the United States have answered the call to help in Northeastern North Carolina. In November and December, several clean-up teams arrived to help with debris removal.

This month, other volunteers are busy reconstructing damaged homes and repairing mobile homes. More volunteer teams and individuals are scheduled to visit the area over the next two months to assist.

For help, call 482-3676 or 482-7868.

The Interfaith agency referred M.E.R.C.I.'s first cases to them.

Those in Perquimans County interested in helping in an interfaith effort to respond to disasters and recovery should contact Larry Higgins at Hertford United Methodist Church or Julian Miller at Catholic Social Ministries. The interfaith group would mobilize immediately after a disaster to determine needs and find resources.

## PCRA plans May events

### Homes tour, garden party on tap

Grand houses, gracious front porches and charming Colonial-era homes are waiting to be explored during the Historic Homes Tour of Perquimans County, May 15 — 16.

Founded in 1668, Perquimans County, is home to some of the region's finest historic homes and architectural treasures. Perquimans is one of the few North Carolina counties with two National Register Rural Historic Districts—reflecting the undisturbed beauty of this rural county.

The Historic Homes Tour of Perquimans provides a wonderful opportunity to tour private homes, some never before open to the public. Homeowners will be on-hand to share their personal restoration experiences.

The Historic Homes Tour of Perquimans County is sponsored by the Perquimans County Restoration Association. Tickets are \$20 per person in advance; \$25 at the door. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact nbwh@inteliport.com or 252/426-7567.

A highlight of the Historic Homes Weekend is the Traditional Southern Garden Party, Saturday, May 15. The charm of the South is captured during this special event. Guests are invited to dress in their spring finery—hats are most acceptable!—for this special garden party.

The grounds of the historic Springfield Inn are the setting for the party and a delectable menu is featured. Tickets are \$25 per person and must be purchased by May 7. For more information or to purchase tickets, contact nbwh@inteliport.com or 426-7567.

## HOLIDAY WEATHER

THURSDAY  
HIGH: 60  
LOW: 50  
MOSTLY SUNNY

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 67  
LOW: 40  
SHOWERS

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 62  
LOW: 43  
SUNNY