

Rotarians celebrate 100th birthday

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Tigers earns two championships

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PQ tops in National Boards

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PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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Local family devoted to mission fields

ERIN RICKERT

For the six members of the Dyson family, the culture and picturesque beauty of exotic corners of the world most only see on the Discovery Channel is where this family recently chose to call home.

With no more belongings than most other families would take with them on an annual vacation, these six give up everyday comforts to share Christianity with the people of these remote paradises as missionaries.

"The most incredible thing that has ever been done for anybody was when Jesus died on the cross,"

said Tom Dyson. "To take that to places where it has not been yet, well what more could you want?"

The Dysons, who lived in the area for nearly nine years while Tom worked as an agricultural extension agent for Perquimans, Gates and Chowan counties, said the thought of devoting their lives to missionary work began in 1996.

It was not until several years later, in 2002, that the family was faced with leaving the comforts of Hertford for their first mission trip.

The trip, made possible through the help of Hertford Baptist Church,

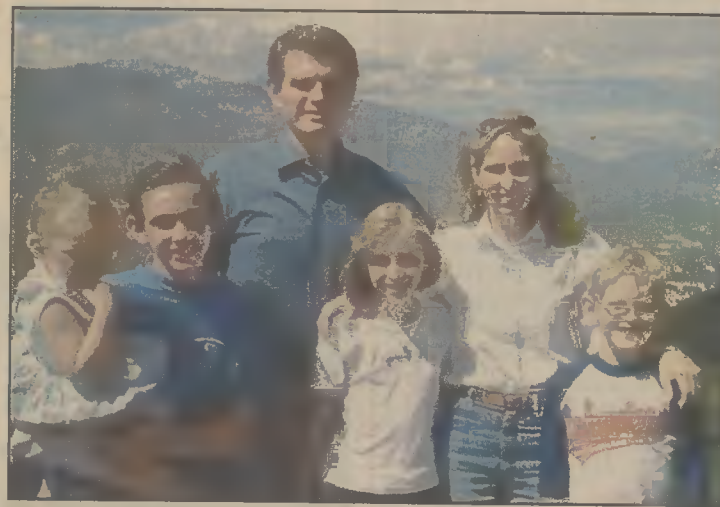
would take the family all the way to Venezuela.

"We decided for our family it was our calling," said Lorenda Dyson. "We were really excited to go into places that did not have the gospel."

The two-year trip, however, would force the young family to sell their home and most of their belongings in the months before they left.

Garage sales at the Dyson's Hertford residence became a regular event and even the children bartered their toys — offering buyers instruction on how to use them.

Everything, except a few



Tom and Lorenda Dyson and their children Miles, 15, Keverly, 13, Skyley, 10, and Mikayla, 4 spent two years as missionaries in Venezuela and are preparing for a four-year trip to Mexico.

small boxes and pieces of furniture, would be taken with them in just 17 suitcases.

Finally in September, with suitcases chock-full of schoolbooks and attire appropriate for a tropical climate, the Dyson's ventured to Dallas, Texas.

Visa problems would cause a seven-month delay before they could continue on to Venezuela, but the Dysons made the most of it — working at the local medical mission.

It was during that time, Tom was rear-ended in a car accident and later developed a pain in his neck.

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PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

Workmen from White Construction work to remortar the exterior of the portion of the Divers Building that fronts Grubb Street. The workmen are repairing mortar.

Divers building gets facelift

ERIN RICKERT

Just weeks after the Tin Rabbit closed its doors for business, preparations for a new antique shop in the same building are underway.

For the last two weeks, crews from White Construction have been working to remortar the building's exterior, repair the ceiling and paint areas inside.

Bobby White, owner of White Construction, said remortaring is almost finished, but several other repairs could force crews to continue work on the building for an additional two weeks.

"It [the store] was getting in bad shape," White said. "It was either demo the thing or fix it."

White said the work to the mortaring, which holds the building's exterior together, has taken the most time because it was in such poor condition it was literally ready to crumble.

Friday, workmen hung

more than 25-feet above Grubb Street as they chipped away old mortar, replacing it with new, and bracing it until the work could dry.

White said crews would have to wait a few days for the mortar to dry before they could start repainting the building and putting an end to repairs.

The new shop, just one of several housed inside the large L-shaped building that extends to Church Street, will open soon according to Kay Chaplain, spokesperson for owners KC Farms Inc.

Perquimans County resident Tom Moriarty will lease the store from KC Farms Inc., where Chaplain said Moriarty will sell antiques.

"I wanted to keep something there that would be nice for the town, so I decided to lease it to someone with the same type of things already in town," Chaplain said. "I think it will be a very nice antique store."

Hertford teen goes Hollywood

Harrell gets surprise makeover, trip to Oscars

ERIN RICKERT

Gena Harrell recently lived what many would consider to be a modern day fairy tale, complete with a golden invitation to the Oscars and \$6 million in diamonds.

Whisked away from her Hertford home for a three-day trip to Harpo Studios on Feb. 20, Harrell joined three other lucky women in Chicago for the taping of Oprah Winfrey's Red Carpet Makeover show.

While there, Harrell not only had the chance to meet her favorite star, Jessica Simpson, but feel beautiful again just days after finishing a month of intense chemotherapy treatments.

And in the minutes before the show would air Friday, the Harrells' home was abuzz with excitement over Gena's trip. Inquisitive family members, friends and supporters came out in droves to encourage the young Hertford woman, who at 19 years old had



Daily Advance photo by MCNAIR RIVERS

Gena Harrell waits with family and friends for Friday's Oprah Winfrey Show, a show on which Gena appeared after receiving a glamorous make-over. She was whisked away again over the weekend for a recreation of her make-over and a bleacher seat on the red carpet at the Oscar Awards.

already been through so much.

With every seat in the house filled, Gena's parents, Jim and Darlene, watched for the first time as their daughter walked out onto a red carpet cat-

walk resembling a movie star, adorned in \$6 million in diamond jewelry, a high-slit light green Monique Lhuillier dress and long wavy brunette locks.

It was in these moments before and during the show,

Gena's struggle with cancer was blurred by the memories of a trip made possible through the support of her family.

Symptoms of cancer were evident in Gena's life

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Webb shares unique culture with students

ERIN RICKERT

After spending more time than usual getting ready, fumbling through several attempts to wrap and fold the pleats of a bright blue beaded sari, Heather Webb greeted a wide-eyed group of Hertford Grammar students last week.

Adorned in Indian dress complete with jewel bindi, many of these fifth grade students were surprised to see Webb in traditional attire for the first time since she returned home from a month-long trip to India Feb. 3.

Hands anchored together as if in prayer, Webb bowed her head and uttered "Nah-mah-stay."

Snickering, the fifth grade students from Lisa Lane's class answered Webb's Hindi hello back in English.

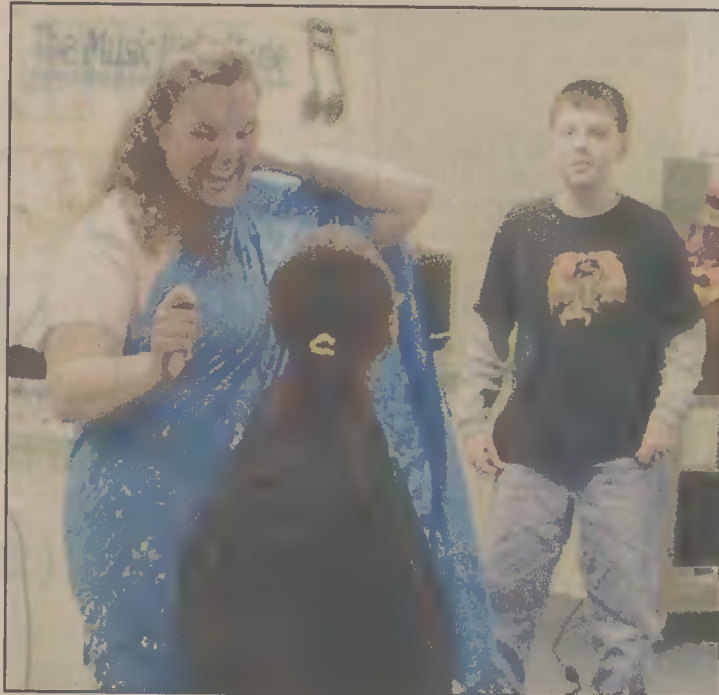


PHOTO BY ERIN RICKERT

Hertford Grammar School music teacher Heather Webb dances to Doohm Machale with Sha'Niqua Gray and other fifth graders from Lisa Lane's class. She is dressed in a sarai, traditional Indian clothing.

A resident of Elizabeth City and music teacher at

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WEEKEND WEATHER

THURSDAY
HIGH: 45
LOW: 36
PARTLY CLOUDY

FRIDAY
HIGH: 47
LOW: 32
MOSTLY SUNNY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 49
LOW: 35
FEW SHOWERS