

THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Perquimans County Schools custodians honored. Page 8

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"News from Next Door"

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Meiggs is top regional principal

By Kristin Pitts and Cathy Wilson
Staff Writers

Every day that she can, Dianne Meiggs sits in her office, waiting to see whether the little boy sitting across from her will set up an effective pawn structure, capture her queen, or be able to shout "checkmate!"

Meiggs realizes that a game of chess isn't on the schedule of most elementary school principals, but this year's regional principal of the year isn't much for doing things the conventional way.

To teach her Hertford Grammar School kids patience, Meiggs challenges them to a game of chess.

Before she settles in for the day, she stops to talk with every single person in the school's sprawling building. At lunch, she eats with students.

"It's time to communicate with kids," she says of her lunch routine. "The more you see them the better they are. It makes a big difference."

Those who know Meiggs well say it's the little differences that help make her a great principal. They say those differences are also why Meiggs was named the Wachovia Regional Principal of the Year on Friday.

"It was probably the first time I was ever speechless," Meiggs said, recalling her reaction to the

news. "I'm just very excited for the school and the community, because (the honor is) for all of us."

Meiggs first captured the Wachovia Principal of the Year title for Perquimans County before competing in Greenville last month with other local award recipients from the northeast region of the state. She is now one of eight regional winners to vie for the 2010 State Wachovia Principal of the Year award to be named in April.

Much of Meiggs' time is consumed by re-evaluating the way her school operates. She's constantly reading articles, studies



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT A. CLARK

Regional Principal of the Year Dianne Meiggs (center-left) works with her after-school reading students (l-r) Hunter Joyner, 8, Jeremiah Brown, 8, Ivan Hayman, 10, Junior Ratliff, 10, and Andrew Bass, 8, Feb. 5, at Hertford Grammar School.

See MEIGGS, 2

Town may give town sidewalks upgrade

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

Town officials want to make it safer and easier to walk on the downtown sidewalks.

Town Manager John Christensen said Precision Safe Sidewalks will perform a survey of selected downtown sidewalks to find out how much it will cost to repair sidewalks that now have trip hazards.

"A lot of people walk in this town and we want to make it a pleasant one," Christensen said.

The company, out of Florence, S.C., actually cuts the trip hazard out of the sidewalk, saving the sidewalk but eliminating the hazard. There is no grinding, no jackhammering, no pouring additional cement. The raised trip hazard is simple sliced away.

"The cutting is cheaper and the result is just as safe," Christensen pointed out.

He said the town will put together a map showing

See SIDEWALKS, 2

Home, sweet home



STAFF PHOTO BY BRETT A. CLARK

Betty Jones gets a hug from her daughter Leslie Moore, Feb. 6, at the Habitat for Humanity House Dedication Ceremony in Hertford.

Grandmother receives new Habitat home

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

Betty Jones threw up her hands excitedly and exclaimed, "I've got a home!"

Moments before, she received the keys to her new Snug Harbor home from Dick Vail,

president of the Chowan-Perquimans Habitat for Humanity, the all volunteer organization that built the home for Jones and her two young granddaughters.

It was a first for Jones who says she has paid rent all her life. She's excited to move her

family into the three-bedroom home from her two-bedroom apartment on Wynne Fork Drive.

"I wanted to better myself and provide a better environment for the girls," said Jones.

Granddaughters Ja-easha Williams, age 10,

and her nine-year-old sister, Ni-Aisha, came to live with Jones in 2003 after their mother couldn't care for them following a tragedy, she explained. The two little girls have always shared a bedroom.

See JONES, 4

Heart of Hertford is hot pink

Register to win where you see the heart!

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

The big hot pink hearts seen in several business windows downtown are invitations to come in the store and receive a little "love".

With any luck, you might receive a great big "love" as well.

The newly formed Hertford Business Association is sponsoring Heart of Hertford from now until the end of the month. Businesses taking part in the campaign will offer treats or discounts to customers, and a chance to win a \$50 gift certificate that can be redeemed in any of the 10 participating businesses.

"This is just one way we can let our customers know how special they are to us as business owners in downtown Hertford," said Susan Cox, the facilitator for the group. "It's just a little way of showing them our heart and how much we appreciate them and their patronage to our

See HEART, 4

Local kids receive free dental care

Local dentist provides big smiles for lucky students

By Cathy Wilson
Staff Writer

The dental team was ready and waiting as the first student walked into the waiting room.

As if on cue, the six dental professionals sprang into action, each ushering a student into a room filled with dental equipment.

While some students may have felt apprehensive about having dental work done for the first time, others welcomed the free care provided for the eighth year by Dr. Jack Boone and his staff members who volunteered their time during the American Dental Association's Give Kids A Smile Day.

Brenda Lassiter, the schools' public information officer, said 20 students from Pre-K to 12th grade

were selected to receive the free care including x-rays, cleanings, fluoride treatments, sealant applications, and even some fillings.

"The schools chose students who may not have had dental care in the past, or needed immediate dental work done, or who may be new to the area and not already have a dentist," she said.

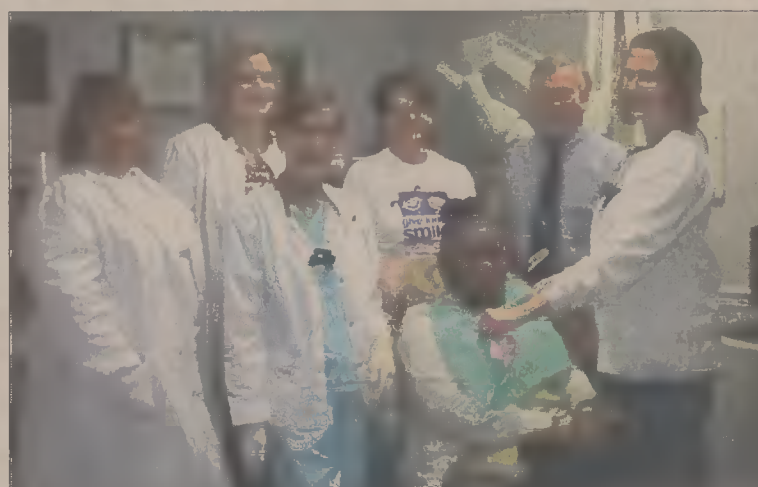
The American Dental Association and the North Carolina Dental Society sponsor the event.

Dr. Boone's office has participated in the national program for eight years.

This year, six dental professionals volunteered their time on their day off as well as supplies.

Give Kids A Smile Day provides children with educational materials in addition to screenings and free dental care.

The local professionals also demonstrate good oral health habits to students.



CATHY WILSON/PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

Dr. Jack Boone and his staff in Hertford celebrate Give Kids a Smile Day by providing free dental care one day a year to selected students in the Perquimans County Schools. Staff members who volunteered their time Friday included: (from left) Arlene McAvo, Betwy Hendricks, Kathryn Nelson, Shermin Prentice, Dr. Boone and Kim Harris. Junior Niasia Clark was one of 20 students who received the special treatment.

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
HIGH: 44 LOW: 28
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY
HIGH: 41 LOW: 27
PARTLY CLOUDY

SUNDAY
HIGH: 46 LOW: 31
SUNNY



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