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'DENTAL ACCESS DAYS'



SAMUEL ROGERS PHOTOS | SPECIAL TO THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Dentists, dental hygienists and assistants treat patients in the gymnasium of Oak Grove United Methodist Church in Greenbrier last weekend on Dental Access Day.

FILLING THE INSURANCE GAP

Dental community helps 200 people with no-cost work

By Vicki L. Friedman
The Virginian-Pilot

GREENBRIER

Doris Jessamy needed a filling. Julie Spence needed six of them. T.J. Harper had a mouth full of bad teeth waiting to be pulled.

Jessamy, Spence and Harper were among 200 area residents who received free dental care at Oak Grove United Methodist Church last weekend.

Some came in suits and ties, others wore Virginia Tech shirts. Some had jobs, others didn't. Everyone had this much in common, though: They needed dental



In the church gym, Dr. Tanya Brown, left, and dental hygienist Leslie Livesay treat patient Doug Toijevo for cavities.

work and had no insurance to pay for it.

Cavities, cleanings and other teeth woes tend to be overlooked during lean economic times, according to the Oral Health Improvement Coalition of South Hampton Roads.

That's why the group teamed with the Pankey In-

stitute to offer free dental services to those who needed it but had no insurance.

Thirteen portable dental chairs, suctions and drills became part of a makeshift M*A*S*H unit at Oak Grove, which also was home to a

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'GREAT CITIZENS FIRST'

At this academy, students learn tae kwon do - and don'ts

By Barbara J. Woerner
Correspondent

GREAT BRIDGE

Inside Scott Baker's Virginia Tae-KwonDo Academy, 13 novice students sparred with enthusiasm.

After several minutes, helmets and gloves came off as Baker gathered the class of white and yellow belts together.

"Do you think being a black belt is easy?" he asked.

"No sir," answered the class in unison. "A black belt is a white belt that never gave up," said Baker.

Class conversation took a slight turn as Baker quizzed students on their behavior, homework completion, helping their parents and the 10 foundational tenets of

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BARBARA J. WOERNER | SPECIAL TO THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

Owner and instructor Scott Baker spars with a student during a white- and yellow-belt class at Virginia TaeKwonDo Academy. Scott emphasizes manners and good citizenship over great fighting.