

## Community

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### Schools to See Dental Health Program

By ART LIMANN Staff Writer

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Children in Marshall County schools will be getting a visit from two Marshall County Health Department dental hygienists during February as they promote good oral health as part of National Children's Dental Health Month.

Connie Veronis and Charlene Rine have been conducting good dental health programs in the county schools for more than 25 years. The pair said the goal of the program is to start children developing a habit of good oral hygiene. In the past, they have used various characters to help get children's attention and keep them focused on the message. This year Veronis will be dressed as Flossie Fox.

They noted that primary teeth play a very important role in a child's growth and development. The health of the primary teeth affects a child's ability to eat and speak, and the primary teeth provide guidance for the eruption and final position of the permanent teeth.

In addition, Rine and Veronis stressed that proper nutrition is another important factor in a child's oral health. Increased consumption of sugary drinks is one of the main reasons for tooth decay in young children. Limiting sugary foods and drinks, especially between meals, is very important, they said.

The two thanked dentists Richard Pettit, Keith Hieronimus, Jim Wilson and Gary Lewis for their contributions to the program.

Stages of Wheeling is providing the Flossie Fox costume.

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#### Article Photos



Photo by Art Limann  
 Marshall County Health Department  
 Dental Hygienist Charlene Rine  
 demonstrates the proper method of  
 flossing teeth to Flossie Fox. February is  
 National Children's Dental Health Month,  
 and the pair will be visiting Marshall  
 County schools promoting good oral  
 health.