

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



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50 cents

"News from Next Door"

FEBRUARY 16, 2011 - FEBRUARY 22, 2011

## Christensen announces August retirement

Hertford manager serving 17th year

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

John Christensen says he will retire at the end of August after 17 years as town manager for Hertford.

While he has not submitted an official letter of resignation, Christensen said he told council members of his plans during their Feb. 7 work session.

"I just felt it was appropriate that I tell them my plans so they could

be thinking of what they want to do," Christensen said. "My time with Hertford has been wonderful, and I have enjoyed it. I'm just ready to move on."

Christensen, 63, started his tenure with the town in December 1993 and has helped lead council through several major projects including updating, improving, and building new water and wastewater treatment facilities.

Tough economic times have created challenges for the town and its citizens, but the town has weathered the storm and ended up in sound finan-

cial shape, as evidenced by the town's latest financial audit.

Christensen says he feels he's been through the worst of economic times in Hertford, and sees growth and prosperity for the town in the future.

"The future for Hertford is exciting," he said. "There will be great opportunities for Hertford with the commerce centre. A lot of things, including the economy, are going to get better."

Christensen feels the new opportunities that will come to Hertford will need leadership with

youth, energy, and insight.

"Change is not bad," he added.

Council members were surprised by his announcement, he said.

"I don't want them to feel this is a bad thing," he said. "Hertford will see a period of growth and prosperity."

Christensen said he has no immediate plans following retirement other than possibly making himself available for interim management positions for small towns.

"We'll see what opportunities pop up," he said.



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Hertford Town Manager John Christensen informed members of town council last week that he plans to retire at the end of August. He was hired in 1993.

## LGC says Winfall's finances improved

Serious financial problems remain

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

The Local Government Commission has commended Winfall officials for increasing their overall general fund last year, but also noted serious financial problems that must be addressed in order to improve the town's financial condition and operations.

Sharon G. Edmundson, director for the fiscal management section, wrote town officials recently that the town bettered their general fund balance last fiscal year by increasing revenues and reducing expenditures.

Even so, the town still ended the 2010 fiscal year with a negative unreserved general fund balance for the third year in a row.

Edmundson noted that one reason is that the town still loans money from the general fund to the water and sewer fund. That loan, she pointed out, now totals \$101,772.

"Enterprise operations, particularly utilities, should be self sufficient, and not rely on tax revenues to support their operations," Edmundson wrote. "Many times taxpayers and utility customers are not the same groups of people, and the town is using taxes paid by its residents to support a utility operation that is

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## Friends to Freedom Wagon Train

# Yee Haw! Giddy up!



STAFF PHOTOS BY CATHY WILSON

Wagon Master Sarah Weeks and her horse Danny Boy (above) enjoy a lunch break during Saturday's test run for the upcoming Friends to Freedom Wagon Train, which will be coming to Perquimans County next month. Weeks is excited about the event slated for March 17-20.

## Wagon Train passes test run for March trip

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

"Hideoho...yeehah!" yelled Wagon Master Sarah Weeks as she snapped the reins signaling Danny Boy to pick up his pace as they approached U.S. High-

way 17.

With deputies stopping traffic on both lanes of the busy highway, the lone horse-drawn wagon followed by four horseriders clip-clopped their way across the intersection and onto the next leg of their Saturday journey.

They tried singing the age old western song Happy Trails made famous by Dale and Roy Rogers, but Dashing Through the Snow was a bit more appropriate considering the cold Saturday morning temperatures.

The sun shone brightly, but the fierce wind bit boldly as the

tough horsewomen ran a test run for the upcoming Friends to Freedom Wagon Train set to meander through Perquimans County next month.

"We're really excited about the event," said Weeks. "We

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## WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY  
HIGH: 70 LOW: 49  
PARTLY CLOUDY

SATURDAY  
HIGH: 57 LOW: 38  
PARTLY CLOUDY

SUNDAY  
HIGH: 53 LOW: 38  
PARTLY CLOUDY



## Hertford firefighters honored for heroics

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Three Hertford firefighters were honored by the town Monday night for entering a burning house and pulling a man to safety.

Mayor Sid Eley presented Assistant Chief Robbie Reed, Lieutenant Rob Holmier, and Firefighter Brian Chappell the town's life saving medal, a certificate, and plaque in recognition of their heroic actions that occurred during a house fire on Market Street December 20.

"This is one of the great-

est times I'd had as mayor," said Eley, himself a veteran firefighter, as he presented the certificates to the three young firefighters. "They are very deserving of this award in recognition of their exceptional and professional efforts."

The trio was one of the first fire units to arrive on the scene and were immediately told that the occupant was still inside the burning house. With flames surrounding them, the men could hear 64-year-old Roary Burrel, Jr. screaming inside the



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Hertford Mayor Sid Eley presents plaques to Hertford firefighters Robbie Reed, Brian Chappell and Rob Holmier for their heroic actions in December when they pulled a man out of a burning home.

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