

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



See photos from last weekend's Friends to Freedom Wagon Train, Page 8



"News from Next Door"

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## Shoaf to be new town manager

STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Hertford Planner Brandon Shoaf will be the town's new manager following the retirement of John Christensen, effective Sept. 1.



### Christensen to retire at the end of August

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Brandon Shoaf will be Hertford's new town manager following the planned summer retirement of current manager John Christensen. Shoaf, who has served as town planner for the past four years, will become town manager Sept. 1.

Christensen plans to retire the last day of August.

Christensen says Shoaf will remain as planner, zoning administrator, and Main Street manager until that time, but will become more involved in the day to day managerial duties immediately.

"By involving him in everything I do now, this training period will help keep him up to date on the town's operations," he said. "This

See SHOAF, 4

## Family not told of murder plea deal

DA: Office says it tried to find family

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Delma Leigh admits he's not the most upstanding citizen in Hertford.

"I've got a rap sheet as long as the town," he said, stretching out his arms wide indicating the length of his run-ins with the law.

But, he's also a father...a father whose son, Jamal Fletcher, was shot and killed nearly three years ago in an apparent drive-by shooting on King Street.

The man accused of his son's murder, Travis Reaves, accepted a plea agreement on a lesser charge of voluntary manslaughter March 10 in Beaufort County in front of Superior Court Judge Wayland J. Sermons, Jr. As a result of the plea agreement, Reaves received a minimum of 61 months and a maximum of 83 months in prison. Reaves received credit for 974 days — more than 2.5 years — he's already spent in jail. He also was ordered to pay \$4,770 in restitution.

Leigh says he and Jamal's mother, Cynthia Fletcher, found out about the plea agreement by reading the newspaper last week.

Both Leigh and Fletcher say they were never contacted by the district attorney's office about the court date, or told of the plea agreement, or that the case was being heard in Beaufort County rather than in Perquimans.

"It's just not right," said Leigh. "There wasn't anyone there to speak for my son or nothing. It's like my son didn't have no family."

"I know if they (district attorney) had a charge on me, they would have found me," he added.

Fletcher, who lives in Raleigh, N.C., says she was not notified of the plea deal. See DEAL, 4

## Wagon train inspires memories

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Tears formed in her eyes as Dawn Dozier Hare rode over the causeway and historic S-bridge by horse-drawn carriage Saturday.

Years ago as a child growing up in Hertford, she would cross that same path daily to feed and water her pony boarded on the Cove Grove Skinner farm out on Old Neck Road.

"Every day, I'd make that same trip," remembered Hare. "Today, it was pretty emotional for me. It brought back a lot of memories."

Hare and her husband, Worth, of Edenton, participated in the Friends to Freedom Wagon Train in Perquimans County over the weekend, traveling a total of 25 miles over two days from the Newbold-White House to Belvidere on Friday and then back to Hertford on Saturday. They dressed the part of Quakers riding in their wagon as part of the ride that commemorated the Great Migration of Quakers from Perquimans to the Northwest Territories in the early 18th and 19th centuries.

As owners of the Edenton Carriage Company, they brought several wagons to include in the Wagon Train, and ran the wagon driving competitions Sunday morning.

"Belvidere and Hertford welcomed us with open arms. That was so exciting. It would be so awesome if we could have it every year," said Hare of the local Wagon Train



STAFF PHOTOS BY CATHY WILSON

The Friends to Freedom Wagon Train rolls into historic downtown Hertford Saturday, greeted by a large, appreciative crowd.

experience.

Roger Manning, of Jamesville, agreed.

"It was a very well organized ride," he said. "I think it went well. Hertford and Belvidere came out in droves to support us and we really appreciate it. The local law enforcement officers went above and beyond to make sure we stayed safe on the roads. It was great."

Wagon Master Sarah Weeks said she was pleased with the weekend events even though the Hertford camp site was moved at the last minute from the Newbold-White House to the field adjacent to the Perquimans Recreation Center following



ing a heavy rain. "A lot of thanks go to County Manager Bobby Darden who let us use this area. The land at NWH was just too wet, but the field here at the rec center was higher and a lot dryer," said Weeks.

Quaker Academy teachers await the train in Belvidere.

"While we came in close to our low estimate of attendees (100), considering the wet conditions, I really don't feel that we could have handled any more than that."

Weeks noted that about 65 people took part in Saturday's parade through Hertford. Visitors lined Church Street watching as the wagons and horses rolled by, some driven by men and women in Quaker costumes while others wore the usual western attire.

The number of participants in Friday's parade in Belvidere was slightly less, but that didn't

quench the fun times in that small neck of the woods.

About 400 people turned out in Belvidere to celebrate the Wagon Train with vendors, live entertainment, wagon rides, food, fun, and promoting the historical homes and buildings in that area.

Weeks said all went well at the Belvidere camp site, too, with the exception of one truck and horse trailer that accidentally drove into a ditch.

"Luckily, the horse was not in the trailer," she said. "The guys managed to pull the truck and trailer out with other trucks and a bulldozer."

## DWI checkpoint nets 40 criminal, traffic violations

BATmobile, 19 officers involved

By CATHY WILSON  
Staff Writer

Nineteen law enforcement officers with five different departments joined forces Saturday night to crack down on drunk driving.

A DWI license check on US 17 near the high rise bridge, complete with Blood Alcohol Testing Mobile Unit, checked drivers for a variety of violations in addition to driving while impaired.

Police say 40 criminal and traffic violations were cited between 8 p.m.-2 a.m.

"This was not really part of any campaign," explained Hertford Police Chief Joe Amos, whose department sponsored the check point. "We just held the checking station as an effort to help reduce DWIs as well as keep the public informed about the dangers of drinking and driving. I think that the checkpoint went very well. We had good participation, and the checkpoint removed some illegal drivers and impaired drivers off the road before they could hurt anyone or cause any property damage."

The mobile unit, better known as the BATmobile,



STAFF PHOTO BY CATHY WILSON

Area law enforcement officers manned a drunk-driving check point Saturday evening on U.S. Highway 17. Departments participating included Hertford, Winfall, Elizabeth City, Edenton and the North Carolina Highway Patrol.

was parked in the middle of US 17 and housed three magistrates during the checkpoint.

Violations found during the check included one driving while intoxicated, six driving with

license revoked, and 26 other traffic violations

See DWI, 4

## MOA to celebrate Perquimans

From staff reports

The Museum of the Albemarle in Elizabeth City will celebrate Perquimans County Day on Sunday from 2-5 p.m., with various speakers, exhibits, and refreshments.

An interesting selection of guest speakers includes Ben Hobbs, Lynwood Winslow, Doug Layden, and Janice Boyce who will tell of a history that spans the period of human settlement as well as their personal reflections of county life before the Internet age. Visitors can see a collection of Perquimans artifacts in the "Our Story" display upstairs and peruse assorted exhibitors in the lobby.

Author Jean Oaks will sign copies of her book of poems titled "Diggin' Dirt".

There is no charge to attend. The museum is located at 501 S. Water Street. For information call 335-1453.



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