



Firefighters set to restore REO Speed Wagon — 1B

Queen Anne Creek bridge opens for traffic

Project finished one week late

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

Motorists got a pleasant surprise early Saturday morning when they discovered the Queen Anne Creek bridge replacement was finally finished.

Once motorists noticed that detour signs were being removed, they learned the N.C. Highway 32 route that connects downtown to southeast Chowan County was open for traffic. Last

month, Shawn Mebane, an engineer with the N.C. Department of Transportation overseeing the project, forecasted that the bridge replacement could be delayed one month beyond its original goal of Aug. 24. "They worked hard the last 30 days to get it done

when they did," Mebane said Tuesday. "It's a week late, but it's done." On Friday afternoon, Mebane said it would probably be today before the bridge opened for traffic. At that time, no guardrails had been installed. But, contractors worked

into the night and finished around 9 p.m.

There remains additional paving and the painting of lines to be completed. Plans call for the final paving on Saturday, weather permitting, Mebane said. Palmetto Infrastructure, the project's contractor

after posting the lowest bid, forfeited any chance of a bonus for early completion once the Aug. 24 date passed. The company stood to earn a \$1,500 daily bonus for every day the project came in early.

See BRIDGE, 3A

Opponents agree on gun rights

Differences emerge on law expansion

By REGGIE PONDER
Staff Writer

With high-profile incidents this summer putting gun laws in the spotlight, state legislative candidates in northeastern North Carolina have expressed support for gun rights but differences on the details of some gun control issues.

Bill Luton, a Democrat and member of the Elizabeth City-Pasquotank County Board of Education, has a ready answer when people ask him about gun control.



Luton

"I tell them that I support the 2nd amendment, and I support and exercise the right to protect and defend my family," Luton said. "I own a handgun, and having the ability to protect my family in the case of a robbery or break-in is my responsibility. I don't take that responsibility lightly."

Bob Steinburg, the former chairman of the Chowan County Republican Party and Luton's opponent for the 1st District Seat in the N.C. House of Representatives, also stated his support for 2nd amendment rights.



Steinburg

"I have always been a strong supporter of the Second Amendment," Steinburg said. "I am a member of the NRA and Ducks Unlimited. I believe the laws we currently have on the books adequately protect the absolute right of citizens to own guns and for the safety of the public at large."

Steinburg did not answer questions about specific legislation and regulations. He said most of the issues are more federal than state.

Luton commented on specific gun issues, as did Sen. Stan White, D-Dare, and Rep. Bill Cook, R-Beaufort, who is challenging

See GUNS, 3A



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J.A. Holmes' principal sets expectations



PHOTO BY RITCHIE STARNES

John A. Holmes High School principal Sheila Evans shares a laugh with a class, Friday. As the former principal at D.F. Walker Elementary School, Evans knew most of the high school's students when they were younger.

Evans: 'I'm about respect and responsibility'

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

"One in, one out," principal Sheila Evans says matter-of-factly when encountering a student in the hallway wearing a set of iPad earphones.

Five minutes later when she meets another student sporting both earphones, "one in, one out."

"There's no use fighting them," Evans explains. "They live in an electronic world. It's

better to teach them the proper etiquette, like to silence their cell phones when in class."

Evans may well be a students-principal, a relationship that serves her well as she embarks on her second semester and first full year at John A. Holmes High School. A former principal at D.F. Walker Elementary, Evans has seen many of her high school pupils when they were younger.

"I know these kids," she adds.

See EVANS, 4A



PHOTO BY RITCHIE STARNES

Holmes' principal Sheila Evans begins her second semester and first full year at the high school. Over the summer the school received a facelift and an extensive cleaning in an effort to present a more respectful environment.

The indestructible Queen Bee returns

Regulator-built vessel comes home

By RITCHIE E. STARNES
Editor

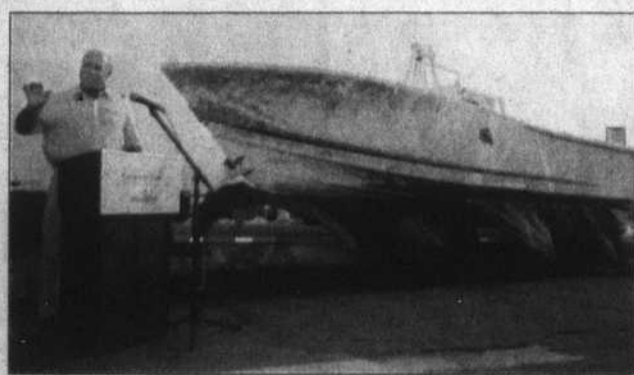
For the past four years they've had one of the best cocktail stories about how they survived a harrowing ordeal before swimming one and a half miles in treacherous ocean waters.

Then, earlier this year, the story developed a new twist. Not only did the brothers-in-law survive a life-or-death campaign, but the vessel they were aboard when a rogue wave tossed them into the At-

lantic Ocean was found intact more than 3,000 miles away from their spill. Last Tuesday, the men were united with the 26-foot Regulator Marine console fishing boat in Edenton, home of the company and where the boat was built in 2003, during a reception dubbed The Indestructible Bee.

"The way it was found and brought back is a feel good story," said survivor Rich St. Pierre. "I like the fact that it grew a moustache while it was gone," referring to the barnacles clinging to the bow's hull.

St. Pierre and the boat's owner, Scott Douglas, re-



STAFF PHOTO BY THOMAS J. TURNERY

Survivor Rich St. Pierre talks about swimming to shore after being washed off the boat - Queen Bee, which was found off the coast of Spain three years later, last Tuesday.

told their story of survival House by Edenton Bay. As they have countless About 60 visitors, including elected officials and

Regulator employees, were on hand to hear their amazing story.

It was about this time four years ago when Douglas, now 59, and St. Pierre, 68, left Nantucket, Mass. for a day of fishing for bonito. The ocean was rough and wind lashing, but they thought the sandbar on the sound side would insulate them from the harsh conditions. Waves about 6-foot high with an occasional 7-footer pounded their boat but they pressed onward.

"Normally there are 30

See QUEEN BEE, 4A

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