

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



Pirates hold first in Coastal 10, Page 6

"News from Next Door"

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## Boat ramp seen as key to industrial project

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

An industrial-sized boat ramp could be what it takes to nudge boat builders to take a serious look at the proposed Perquimans County Marine

Industrial Park, according to the director of a state agency in charge of it.

Bob Peele said developers continue to look at the site but none have committed to locating there. The park is a 72-

acre site next to the Perquimans County Recreation Center.

"If we could bring our first company in and get it set up at the Perquimans site, it will take off," Peele said in a telephone interview in December.

To fully develop the site, complete with a boat basin, would require about \$22 million.

An initial step would be to build an industrial-size boat ramp at the foot of North Granby Street. It would accommodate

much larger vessels as well as recreational boats. Economic developers hope it will attract some marine-related industry and the jobs that come with it.

Perquimans County is seeking \$360,000 from

Golden LEAF to help pay for ramp. The N.C. Wildlife Commission will also provide funding and the county will provide the property as its local match.

See BOAT RAMP, 2

## PAIR PLAYING ROLE IN TV PROJECT

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

A pair of Perquimans County men are working on a television program that features two fitness models learning about outdoor adventures.

Ralph Hollowell said he was approached about being part of the program — Fit To Be Wild — because of his love of outdoors. Brian Nixon has helped with filming some of the episodes. Nixon earned a degree in filmmaking from UNC-Wilmington and also lives in Perquimans County.

The program centers around Hollowell, Cara Christensen and Amy France.

Amy is a member of the France family that controls NASCAR. Christensen is a fitness model. The first program is to air in early April, Hollowell said. He is not at liberty to say what network will air it. The crew is supposed to produce 13 episodes.

Some of the episodes have been filmed in Perquimans County. One involves the women shooting a variety of guns in the backyard of Hollowell's home in Bagley Swamp. France was the loser in the shooting contest and as a result had to eat a pickled pigs foot.

"It was a hot, humid July day and it was pretty gross," said Nixon.

The women were also introduced to the Town of Hertford, complete with a view of the Turtle Log and the S-Bridge.

Other episodes are far more exotic, including running with the bulls in Petersburg, Va. — a new



PHOTO BY MELINDA LAMM

Fitness models Cara Christensen (left) and Amy France pose near the S-Bridge in Hertford last month during filming for an upcoming TV program.

event for the U.S. held in August.

"That was intense," Nixon said of the bull run. "I was impressed that there were so few injuries. A couple of people got injured, but nothing serious."

There is footage of hunting in Pennsylvania, and deep-sea fishing out of Cape Hatteras. Other programs involve chasing wild hogs in Bertie County, watching bull riding at Top Notch Ranch

in Chowan County and whitewater rafting in western North Carolina.

Some footage at Academi, a defense training facility in Camden and Currituck counties may be used as background, but Nixon said more will need to be done there.

"It was a preliminary tour with them meeting the girls," Nixon said.

"We're talking about shooting there in the future. There are plans to do one in Africa that

looks at the world's most dangerous animals. Hollowell has been to Africa and that means going head to head with Cape Buffalo, elephants, leopards and lions.

"He (Hollowell) has been there and he knows people who can get something like this lined up," Nixon said.

As of yet, the crew hasn't ventured out to the Bondurant Driving School in Arizona, but that's something France

wants to include. For \$4,400, regular people can spend three or four days learning how to race an open-wheeled Grand Prix car. There is also a day-long program for \$9,000 to learn how to drive an advanced stock car.

Hollowell is the environmental health director at Albemarle Regional Health Services and a member of the Perquimans County School

See TV PROJECT, 2

## Board to look at meeting policy

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Perquimans school officials will consider a policy again this month that would specify how board members can participate in meetings even if they can't physically be there.

The board reviewed a draft policy on first reading in December, but will have to give it a final OK at a meeting in January.

The issue came up because board member Steven Magaro is often out of town on business. Magaro works as a consultant with the federal government and often works out of town. He wants to continue to play a part of the board even if he can't physically attend meetings and wants other boards members to have that same opportunity.

The board looked at a policy in December that would allow school board member to participate by phone or video. That way a board member outside of town can listen to others in the conference room and participate.

Magaro missed one regular meeting in 2013. He said he's made a point to be there even though he works in Washington D.C. and he'll continue to do so even if the policy is approved.

"I set up my work schedule to go in after meetings Monday night," he said.

That means attending a meeting and then driving to Washington D.C. and arriving at 2 a.m. or 3 a.m.

"If there is a meeting that isn't in the regular schedule, I take a vacation day off

See POLICY, 2

## DOT's bridge meeting with agencies is Jan. 16

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
News Editor

Making a recommendation on which alternative to use for a new bridge across the Perquimans River isn't the final word, but officials say it was a key move.

N.C. Department of Transportation officials insist that they haven't made a final decision but agree they have reached a recommendation. DOT plans to meet with state and federal agencies on Jan. 16 at which time the decision may be final.

DOT came to the recommendation after a meeting in November. A summary of that November meeting was released Dec. 30. It shows a will-

ingness by DOT to express a preference — something it hasn't done in past years. As late as September members of the public repeatedly asked DOT officials in a workshop if DOT had a preference. The answer was it did not.

The agency now recommends that the S-Bridge be replaced by a fixed bridge that extends off Church Street, bypasses the causeway and ends up in the area of Larry's Drive In on the Winfall side of the river.

Over the last decade more than 10 different options have been discussed, but it was finally narrowed to three.

There was the version that was selected — known as D-Mod for D-Modified. Then there was alternative E — a fixed span that extends off Edenton Road Street. There was also a swing-span option — Alter-

## HOLIDAY ISLAND TAKES POLAR PLUNGE



PHOTO BY PAM HADDEN

Nine people participated in Holiday Island's annual Polar Plunge, sponsored by the Holiday Island Yacht Club on New Year's Day. The water temperature was 48 degrees, but the sun was out and the wind wasn't blowing. Pictured are (l-r) Katie Kelly, Ashley Bunch, Schuyler Headley, Jason Bunch, Jenno Lawrence, Adam Cox, Aiden McGonigle, Harold Dagenhart and Denise Hale.



See BRIDGE, 2