

The Warren Record

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Rumors That Warren Plant To Be Sold Said To Be Unfounded

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
News Editor

Rumors that Nekoosa Packaging is "up for sale" are unfounded, an official at the Manson plant's parent company, said Monday.

And on Tuesday, Tom Weiss, public information officer for Great Northern Nekoosa, confirmed that his board of directors had rejected Georgia-Pacific's "uninvited \$58-per-share tender offer for our outstanding shares." Weiss said the number of shares being sought by Georgia-Pacific was about 50 million.

The board rejected the offer, calling it a "junk deal for shareholders, employees and communities."

"The \$4.5 billion of debt that would be imposed upon Great Northern Nekoosa would turn our fine company and Georgia-Pacific into one highly leveraged junk company," board chairman William R. Laidig said. "It would force curtailment of our critical environmental, public land, employee and community programs," he said.

In addition to rejecting the offer, legal counsel for Great Northern has advised the company that the offer violates antitrust laws. The company has filed suit in Bridgeport, Conn. U. S. District Court. It seeks to enjoin the offer, which expires on Nov. 29.

Laidig called the willingness of banks to make buy-out loans to Georgia-Pacific "completely irresponsible." In a letter to

shareholders, he wrote: "... (the) offer represents no more than an attempt to take advantage of the industry's current short-term, down cycle and to seize for its own benefit the long-term values that should belong to all our shareholders."

The attempted buy-out is expected to have no effect on operations at the Manson plant.

Great Northern Nekoosa, located in Toledo, Oh., is the parent company for Warren's Nekoosa Packaging.

Originally known as Owens-Illinois, Nekoosa Packaging began production in Warren County in 1984, changing its name in the fall of 1987. The Warren County plant has 115 employees.

Police Chief Changes Mind On Resigning

Norlina Police Chief Charles Galantis said Monday that he has retracted his letter of resignation submitted last week.

The retraction was made Monday morning in a letter given to Norlina Town Clerk Jean Frazier.

Galantis had indicated his intention to resign, effective Nov. 15, on Wednesday of last week. That resignation letter had been given to Norlina Police Commissioner Dwight Pearce. It was submitted the day after Norlina's municipal election which saw the re-election of Mayor Bill Delbridge over the challenging Pearce.

In the original letter, Galantis had said the remainder of his two-week's notice will be used as time off for compensatory and accumulated vacation leave. On Monday of this week, the police chief was back at work.

Before coming to Norlina in 1987, Galantis had worked in the Henderson Police Department as a detective.

"Chief Galantis has done an exemplary job since he's been here and has improved the quality of police protection in Norlina," Pearce said.

Neither Galantis nor Pearce would comment on the reasons for the retraction. Because the Norlina Board of Commissioners does not meet until next month, no action had been taken on the intended resignation.

The loss of Galantis would have left the Norlina Police Department with only one full-time officer, Lt. James Champion, and one part-time officer, Willie James Alexander. In addition, the department also employs several off-duty or auxiliary officers from the county and Warrenton Police Departments.

Had the resignation taken effect, Lt. Champion would have been officer-in-charge, responsible for scheduling the shifts of the remaining police force.

Mayor Delbridge was unavailable for comment.

3 Employees Win Approval

Contracts were approved Monday night for three new school system employees by the Warren County Board of Education:

- Mrs. Margarita A. Haltema, an alumna of the National University of Mexico, as a unit-wide Spanish teacher, effective Oct. 30.

- Mrs. Helen Williams, as central office receptionist, effective Oct. 30.

- Ms. Dorothy King, as a pre-kindergarten teacher assistant at Northside, effective Oct. 16.

Leaves of absence were given to Mrs. Judy Carroll (Mariam Boyd kindergarten teacher) and Mrs. Zandra Harris (Mariam Boyd teacher assistant).

Personnel Director Mrs. Priscilla O. Jeffries reported to the board that two vacancies—elementary media coordinator and maintenance director—remain.



Yarborough Williams, chairman of the Warren County Board of Education, presents Ms. Faye Spence with an engraved plaque and a check for \$500 after she was named Warren County Teacher of the Year for 1989-90 during a meeting of the board Monday night. Ms. Spence is a kindergarten and first grade teacher at South Warren Elementary School.

Also honored were, from left, Mrs. Eddy Fleming, second runner-up; Allen Reynolds, nominee; Mrs. Roberta Scott, first runner-up. Not present was nominee James Howell. Mrs. Scott received a plaque and \$200, and Mrs. Fleming was given a plaque and \$100.

(Staff Photo By Howard Jones)

Five Items Deleted

Board Action Taken To Cut School Costs

By THURLETTA M. BROWN
News Editor

A net savings of over \$141,611 in construction costs has been realized, thanks to action taken Monday night by the Warren County Board of Education.

By unanimous vote, the board declined an alternate task in the contract for the paving of existing WCHS automobile parking areas. Inclusion of that alternate would have increased the \$1,356,146 general contract price by \$54,487.

The board also gave unanimous approval to a change order deleting five items from the construction contract for a savings of \$87,124. Deleted were: (a) bus parking grading for the WCHS addition; (b) 30 feet of reinforced concrete pipe, headwalls and curb inlets at the northeast corner of the bus parking area; (c) the stone base, asphalt paving at the front driveway, and striping of bus parking; and a portion of the curbing/guttering work.

Those actions had been recommended by James Jordan, assistant superintendent, and the architects. According to Jordan, all paving (except that for the stadium track) and guttering should be bid as a single contract. "By the time the work is to be done, the exact square-footage needed for bus parking and the length of the perimeter road at the site would be known," Jordan said. "If done as a package, the state's contribution toward bus parking areas could be maximized." He also assured the board that no operational problems would be created by the delay and the continued use of present temporary parking areas for buses.

Jordan also gave an update on construction at WCHS. "Everything is on 'go' and on schedule for the high school addition and stadium," he said. Pre-site preparations for the high school addition have been completed. Three trailers have been moved and restored and are in use by

students. A construction fence has been installed and existing school exits are secured.

Rough grading for the classroom area of the addition is 50 percent complete. "The rest should be done by the end of the week—if the weather holds out," Jordan said. Rough grading has also begun in the stadium area and a large section of drainage pipe is to be installed on Monday.

Jordan said progress meetings have been scheduled at WCHS every two weeks throughout construction. A meeting was to be held today (Wednesday).

Warren County's new middle school is also progressing. Construction is slated to begin next March, with completion by the end of the 1991 school year. Designs for kitchen and media areas were to be presented by the architect this week. "The fireproofing design has received good reviews from the Department of Insurance," Jordan said. Final drafts for the new middle school are expected to be completed by late December.

Another construction matter discussed was the involvement of minority contractors in single-prime and separate-prime state construction contracts. "Legislation ratified in June requires an ascertainable and verifiable goal for minority participation in all construction contracts," Al Thompson, board attorney, said. The state statute defines "minorities" as blacks, Hispanics, Asian Americans, American Indian or Alaskan Native, and women. The participation goal adopted by the state is 10 percent.

"We're on the edge of all school systems in North Carolina because of our anxiousness to get the middle school built. We need a policy with verifiable goals to ensure there are no hold-ups in soliciting bids," he said.

A public hearing on the matter had been advertised in the paper (Continued on page 7)

Top Teacher Is Recognized

Accolades and awards were given to two teachers and two schools Monday night by the Warren County Board of Education.

Topping the list was the presentation of Warren County's coveted "Teacher of the Year" award to Ms. Faye Spence. Ms. Spence, a kindergarten teacher at South Warren Elementary School, was featured recently on WTVD's "Salute To Teachers."

Mrs. Roberta Smithwick Scott, a Hawkins ECIA reading teacher, and Mrs. Lois Eddy Fleming, a Mariam Boyd teacher of third-graders, were first- and second-runners-up, respectively.

The screening committee was comprised of Mrs. Constance H. Davis, Mrs. B.J. Gill and Mrs. Lillie G. Hawkins.

Other nominees were James Howell (WCHS) and Allen Reynolds (John Graham).

The "Teacher of the Year" recognition was preceded by a coffee and dessert gala held before the meeting to honor the winner and nominees.

The "North Carolina Awards Program for Outstanding Mathematics Teachers" award was presented to Ms. Barbara Rowlette. Recipients are chosen by the N. C. Council of Teachers of Mathematics and the N.C. Business Committee for Education. Ms. Rowlette, a teacher at Vaughan Elementary School, won the local award and is now a regional nominee.

The county's "Clean School Award" for the month of October was presented to Vaughan Elementary School, which met 98 percent of the performance requirements. South Warren Elementary School is the runner-up, with 97.5 percent of the requirements met. Warren County's schools are recognized each month, with a yearly award to be given to the overall winner.

The "Academic Excellence Award" noting the highest academic records in the first nine-weeks grading period was presented to Hawkins Elementary School.

25 Jobs Open

New Firm Seeking Local Employees

Some 25 computer operators may find jobs in Warren County by the first of next month if plans of a Richmond, Va. couple materialize.

Mrs. Jean Hofheimer of Richmond announced Monday that applications of persons interested in working in data entry and claims processing at a Warren County location will be accepted starting today at the Warren County Economic Development office in the Taylor Building in Warrenton.

The proposed company would be a new one for Mrs. Hofheimer and her husband, who have a background in claims work involving computers. The site of operations, which could eventually grow to 100 persons, has not been determined, although Mrs. Cathy Wilson, Warren EDC director, said two potential locations are being studied.

Mrs. Hofheimer has a contract with an unidentified corporation, and must start up her new business quickly, she said in a telephone interview.

"The work will be basically medical claims work and will involve data entry and claims processing," she said.

The new company—to be known as Data Service America—is expected to attract a female work force primarily, Mrs. Hofheimer said. She indicated that some men have held the computer operator positions in similar operations, but that it is generally attractive to women rather than men. Employees, who will be trained by the company, must be high school graduates.

Persons interested in applying for work are asked to contact the Warren EDC office in the Taylor Building on North Main Street. The telephone number is 257-3114.

Proposed Annexation Linked To More Funds

By DIANE DAVIS
Staff Writer

The town of Warrenton could realize an increase in monies to help maintain its streets if a proposed annexation project comes to fruition.

Town officials have discussed the annexation of land off the Baltimore Road, through Country Meadows (Ridgecrest Drive), through the lower portion of Mrs. Hal Connell's pond near the Armory on East Macon Street and to part of the Warren Street extension.

White told the town board of commissioners Monday night during the board's monthly meeting that an initial count of Warrenton's population before the Census Report was to be filed "did not look good." Earlier, board officials had learned that the town had experienced a loss of 100 or more residents during the past 10 years.

White said the annexation could make the town's population increase by 200-250, which (Continued on page 7)

Oath Of Office Ceremony Set For Watkins Successor

Henderson physician James P. Green, Jr. is slated to take the oath of office as a member of the General Assembly from the 22nd House District Thursday morning in Henderson.

Green recently was appointed by Gov. James G. Martin to fill the remainder of the unexpired term of the late William T. (Billy) Watkins of Oxford, who died following a heart attack in August. Green was recommended for the position by the 22nd District Democratic Executive Committee at the conclusion of a marathon session in Henderson last month.

Green will take the oath of office Thursday at 10:30 a.m. at the Vance County Courthouse.

He will become the first black to represent the 22nd House District since Reconstruction. He will join incumbent Reps. John Church of Vance and James W. Crawford of Granville in representing the counties of Person, Caswell, Granville,



DR. GREEN

Vance and parts of Warren and Halifax.

Secretary of State Rufus Edmister reportedly will participate in the swearing-in ceremony.