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Officials seek payment for heating, cooling system

The Perquimans County Board of Education voted to seek a \$250,000 reimbursement for the installation of a heating and cooling system at the high school after the first system installed following the renovation of the building proved faulty due to engineering errors, Superintendent Mary Jo Martin reported at this week's meeting.

the architect, Sam Ashford Inc., of Raleigh. The problem was with the quality of the water being pumped into the system.

Martin said the board had to pay \$250,000 to install the second system, which is now working properly.

New board members

Ben Hobbs and Wayne Howell, elected last May in the primary elections for the school board, assumed their duties this week.

Reorganization

Board attorney John Matthews said he is in the process of pursuing legal remedies.

Martin said the problem was in the way the plans were drawn by

Clifford Winslow was elected by board members as the chairman, and Clifford Towe was named vice chairman.

Assistant principal

Karen Luszc, formerly a teacher at Perquimans Middle School, was appointed as the new assistant principal at the high school.

Warehouse building

Martin said board members agreed to seek bids for a new storage and warehouse building early next year. She said the estimated

\$70,000 cost of the building is included in this year's budget.

After school care

Martin said that 57 parents responded to a recent survey to determine interest in before and after school care for students. She said 49 of the parents expressed an interest in care after school.

Planning for the service will now continue, and Martin said a site will be selected, personnel will be hired and a program will be developed.

Traffic concerns

Towe informed the board about a proposed barge landing site in Winfall. The proposal is now in the permit process. Outer Banks Construction Inc. made the request.

Towe expressed concern about the additional traffic on N.C. Highway 37 caused by the site, which is located on Major Road between Winfall and Hertford and is near both the Middle and Central schools. It is within Winfall's zoning jurisdiction.

Board members instructed Mar-

tin to write a letter to the Winfall Town Council asking council members to consider the impact of the site on school bus transportation.

Vocational building

An inspection was conducted at the vocational building at the high school after cracks were discovered in the wall.

The building, built in 1950, had settled over the year, Martin said. "At this time, we found that the building is safe and only minor repairs are needed. Repair work will be done in the summer," she said.



Roman Gabriel, former quarterback at N.C. State University and with the Los Angeles Rams and Philadelphia Eagles, was the speaker at last week's Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce banquet.

Ex-grid star speaks at Chamber banquet

Roman Gabriel tells about price of success on, off the field

Roman Gabriel, former quarterback with N.C. State University, the Los Angeles Rams and Philadelphia Eagles, told the audience at the Perquimans County Chamber of Commerce annual banquet last week that success is something that must be worked for each and every day.

Gabriel recalled when he first joined the Los Angeles Rams as the number one draft choice, a Ram player walked up to him. "I expected him to say welcome to the team, but he said 'aren't you from Sonny Jurgensen's home town?'"

Indeed, both Gabriel and Jurgensen played at New Hanover High School in Wilmington. "After I made a name for myself, people would walk up to Sonny and say, 'aren't you from Roman Gabriel's home town.' Now, people walk up to both of us and say, 'aren't you from Michael Jor-

dan's home town,'" he said. "Every day is a new beginning."

While in high school, Gabriel was all-state in three sports and most valuable player in both basketball and football. He was offered a pro baseball contract with the New York Yankees, but instead opted to attend N.C. State where he was All-American.

Gabriel recounted one of his most memorable games at N.C. State, and naturally it was against UNC-Chapel Hill. Gabriel said over the off season, he gave up Moon Pies and began lifting weights. He came into camp at the beginning of the season bigger, stronger and faster, and his coaches decided to play him at middle linebacker on short yardage situations against Carolina. He was successful in two short-yardage plays and stopped the quarterback both times by "accidentally" letting his

hand slip up and hit the quarterback in the jaw, causing a fumble. N.C. State won the game 3-0.

"Being a Catholic, you have to go to a priest if you think you have done something wrong," he said with a smile. In confession, he said he told the priest about the incidents and the priest said he committed three sins. "By the way," the priest said. "Who were you playing?"

"Carolina," Gabriel responded.

"Well, anyone can make a mistake," the priest responded in quick forgiveness.

Gabriel spent 16 years in professional football. He was the Rams' most valuable player three times and an all-pro in four years. He was the league's most valuable player in 1969.

Gabriel got \$15,000 to sign with

the Rams. "Today, the minimum a number one draft choice gets is \$500,000," he said. Also, in those days quarterbacks did not run out of bounds to escape a tackler. "I had 265-pound guys jump all over me and tell me not to get up because they are coming back," he said. "I told them where I come from, you always get up."

Gabriel said a lesson he learned from his high school coach that has stayed with him all of his life is that winning is not the most important thing in the world. "Enjoying to prepare to win is," he said.

But perhaps the most important lesson came from his father, he said. "Persevere," Gabriel said. "Set a goal. Go climb the biggest oak tree, don't be an acorn sitter all your life and wait for someone to pour water on your head. Know you have the ability to want to get there. That is the desire factor."

Barge landing site meets zoning rule

Bartlett says Winfall cannot stop plans for intended use

WINFALL — Mayor Bill Bartlett said Monday that the town could not stop plans for a proposed barge landing site because the land is already zoned for commercial highway use.

The planned use of the property by Outer Banks Contractors Inc. would be acceptable under the highway commercial designation, he said.

"This council made that decision when the zoning ordinance for the town was approved in 1986," Bartlett said. "I wish you had shown as much interest in 1986 as you have now."

He said the town was already committed to accept the barge landing because of the zoning designation. "It will take a higher authority to change that," he said, adding that the town could be taken to court if the board tried to not allow the barge landing site to be located in Winfall.

"We have no authority to stop the plant from coming in. This board is not going to stick the town out on a legal limb. We have to abide by the zoning ordinance," Bartlett said, adding that he wished this type of public input would happen more often.

Clifford Towe, a member of the Perquimans County school board and resident of Winfall, said he didn't believe that the board made enough of an effort to encourage public discussion. "I think a greater effort ought to be made to get people to discuss matters when something of this magnitude comes up," he said.

More than 10 people spoke against the proposal for the barge landing citing environmental concerns, the potential disruption of recreational activities, and traffic concerns. Plans for the site, located on 19 acres of land along Major Street off of N.C. Highway 37, are now in the permit process with the Division of Coastal Management.

Tim Beacham, of Outer Banks Contractors, said the company has no plans "at this time" to locate an asphalt plant at the site. "There is no work in the area to justify that," he said. An engineer for the project did say last week that a mobile asphalt plant could be moved to the site in the future. Beacham said his company would have to apply for a clean air permit to locate an asphalt plant at the site. "That has

not been done," he said.

Bartlett said that town council members did take a tour of an asphalt plant owned by the company and discussed the possibility of location of an asphalt plant in Winfall if Outer Banks Contractors were awarded a construction contract for work on U.S. Highway 17. Since the company did not receive that contract, those plans were dropped.

Beacham said up to four barges a week would be brought in to the site, and gravel and rock would be unloaded off of the 200-foot barges, 35 to 40 feet in width. He said at maximum use, that would result in 25 trucks each day leaving the site.

When asked how many jobs the barge landing site would provide for the county, Beacham said he could not answer that at this time. He also said the barges would not block the narrow channel used for navigation on the river.

PCHS band and chorus Christmas concert set

The Perquimans County High School Band and Chorus will present a joint concert Sunday, Dec. 18, at 3 p.m. in the high school auditorium.

"An Old Fashioned Christmas" is the theme of the concert, and decorations by Joan Wood and the art department will create an atmosphere of holiday cheer and nostalgia. The chorus, under the direction of Lynwood Winslow, will perform selections ranging from J.S. Bach's "Alleluia" to the perennial favorites "White Christmas" and "The Christmas Song." Various soloists will highlight the performance. The band, conducted by David Ziemba, will delight the audience with their usual spectacular style with yuletide numbers including "An Old Fashioned Christmas."

The public is invited to attend what is certain to be a wonderful afternoon of Christmas music.

Christensen is recipient of C-of-C business award

John Christensen, owner and manager of Darden Department Store in Hertford, was the selected as the first recipient of the Perquimans Charles M. Harrell Jr. Business Person of the Year Award.

The award was presented at the Chamber of Commerce banquet last night and this is the first year the award was established in honor of the late Charles M. Harrell Jr., who was a business leader in the town and the first president of the Chamber of Commerce. Chris Harrell, the son of Charles and Mary Harrell, was on hand to make the presentation.

Christensen is a member of the Hertford PTA and is past treasurer, a member of the Hertford Rotary Club and past president,

member of the Hertford Fire Department and its special rescue team, and member of the Chamber of Commerce. He is also a member of the United Methodist Church, the steering committee for the U.S. Highway 17 Transportation Association, and Ducks Unlimited.

He moved to Hertford in 1981 to manage the family business. He also volunteers for such projects as Hertford Horizons and serves as chairman of the downtown business revitalization committee, and he is active in the Perquimans Indian Summer Festival.

Also at the banquet, Chamber President Larry Swindell recounted the accomplishments during the past year. Those accomplishments included spon-



Christensen

soring five ribbon cuttings for new businesses.

Permits to make fishing reef from Albemarle bridge denied

Plans to use material from the old Albemarle Sound Bridge to construct several fishing reefs in the sound came to a halt as Perquimans County commissioners were told last week that the county's permit would be denied.

County Manager Paul Gregory said a letter from the Division of Marine Fisheries stated that no new estuarine reefs would be established until further research can be done to study the productivity of such reefs.

Perquimans, along with Washington, Tyrrell and Pasquotank counties, applied for the permit to use the material from the old bridge for fishing reefs once the new Albemarle Sound Bridge is completed. The bridge is located

along N.C. Highway 32 between Chowan and Washington counties.

Chowan County had investigated the possibility of using some of the material as a breakwater, but County Manager Cliff Copeland said the county was informed by the Sea Grant organization that the material would not be suitable for that use because of the amount of steel used to construct the bridge.

In denying the 12 permit requests for the fishing reef, Steve Murphy, artificial reef coordinator with the DMF, said the effectiveness of artificial reefs in ocean waters has been well documented. Such reefs attract sea bass, red snappers, and spanish mackerel.

"The productivity and effectiveness of estuarine reefs is considerably less documented," he said,

adding that spot, croaker, white perch and trout are primarily foraging fish and are not associated with structure or hard-bottom conditions.

Though striped bass have been found to be associated with rocky bottoms, use of a reef to attract striped bass would increase the harvest, Murphy said.

New deadlines for Christmas

Due to the Christmas Holidays, deadline for news articles appearing in the Thursday, Dec. 29 edition of The Perquimans Weekly will be Dec. 22 at 3 p.m.

Advertising deadline for that edition will be Dec. 23 at 2 p.m.

Bloodmobile: Dec. 20, 3-7 p.m., Hertford United Methodist