

# THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY

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"News from Next Door"

WEDNESDAY, JULY 25, 2018

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## Resident blasts DOT S-Bridge plan

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

A property owner who stands to lose land because of the construction of the replacement of the S-Bridge spoke out to Hertford Town Council this month.

Sara Winslow was critical of the lack of detail provided by the N.C. Department of Transportation.

"In summary, the town and its citizens have been hoodooed by NCDOT," Winslow said.

"Many of the citizens have been in contact with NCDOT over this long process, requesting information and received at times no response to very little. We have been to the town council numerous times requesting information and support to the point the other year when council wouldn't even allow the citizens to make anymore comments relative to the bridge replacement. So, I guess the town is not

concerned with the loss of tax revenue as a result of the bridge and the associated impacts to property from the construction."

DOT's plan is to construct another swing span near where the current bridge sits. It will also create a low bridge that eliminates the need for the existing causeway. In the process, some of the land Winslow owns on Phelps Street will be needed by DOT, but Winslow says she doesn't

know how much. She said she was hoping for more answers when DOT and the contractor held a public meeting in late June, but she was not impressed. Many of the maps were not updated to reflect what is being built. The handouts still show the federal government is paying the bulk of the cost of the new bridge, when in fact the state agreed years ago to pay the entire cost and

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STAFF PHOTO BY PETER WILLIAMS

Perquimans Schools Superintendent Matthew Cheeseman (left) discusses the alignment of the road in Winfall at a meeting last month on the replacement for the S-Bridge.

## Stadium may be delayed

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

Work on the new \$1.2 million football field at Perquimans County High School is progressing, but it won't be ready for the first game of the season as was hoped.

Superintendent Matthew Cheeseman said the school system still hopes it can be ready to play on by Aug. 17 but said Oct. 12 may be a more realistic date. The Pirates play four of their first few games on the road and the Oct. 12 date against Gates is the first home game after that.

The hang up is grass — or more specifically an irrigation system to keep it watered. Leary Winslow, a school board member and owner of Macon Turf Farm, offered to donate the sod but was worried about keeping it alive.

"Sod will only live a day or so without water," Winslow said. "That was a huge concern among other things. Once the water goes in irrigation can be installed along with the final grade. Then sod. We will still be donating the sod — once those other things happen."

The original plan was to bore under Edenton Road Street to get the six-inch water main from the high school side over to the football field without disturbing the pavement, said Jim Davison, the school system's maintenance director.

That won't work and now the plan requires tearing up asphalt to lay the line. Motorists will still be able to travel down Edenton Road Street because both lanes won't be torn up at the same time. But the forecast of rain for days, may hinder the water line work.

The line has to be in place so the irrigation firm can do a flow test to make sure it provides enough water. Once that happens, the irrigation can be installed, Davison said.

As much as Cheeseman says he wants to be able to play the first game there, he understands.

"It took us 15 years to get to this point, but we're going to get it done," Cheeseman said. "We are very happy Mr. Winslow is donating the sod."

The home side bleachers are nearly finished and the press box can be hoisted up just as soon as it is dry enough to get a crane in, Davison said.



STAFF PHOTOS BY PETER WILLIAMS

Top, a crane lifts one of the four light poles into place at the new athletic complex at Perquimans County High School earlier this month. Left, large drainage pipes wait to be installed at the new athletic complex earlier this month.



Musco Lighting completed that task of getting the lights installed in three days once the materials were on-site.

Davison said it involved taking four 24-foot-long pre-cast concrete pipes and burying them 18 feet in the ground. The four metal light poles were then lifted down onto the concrete pipes and adjusted.

"At the top they had a battery-operated laser and they marked off the dead-center of the field and turned the pole until the laser hit that spot and then the lights were set."

Davison said football fans and players will really see a difference with the LED lighting.

"They will provide almost triple the amount of light on the field," he said.

The concession stands and the field house weren't expected to be complete for the very

first game. Instead the plan is to have them ready by mid-September.

"Chicago" Eure, the owner of Eure and Sons construction, said the weather has held him back, and there was a problem with the delivery of the metal buildings. Eure is building both the 1,000-square foot bathroom/concession stand and the 1,800-square foot field house.

"The buildings were supposed to be here by now, but the company had them loaded on the truck and somebody noticed they hadn't been painted," Eure said Wednesday. Instead of black, the metal panels were red, so the company in Georgia had to take the materials off the truck, paint them and then put them back on the truck.

"My guys are ready to start standing that thing up tomorrow if we get the buildings,"

Eure said.

He said he's doubtful he'll hit the original target for being finished, "but we're going to be close. That's what I'm working on anyway."

All in all, Davison said the school system has made a lot of progress in a very short time.

"We are in pretty good standing. We had a couple of small setbacks from unforeseeable stuff. We've also had a little bit of (rainy) weather."

The 32-acre site for the field was donated by Dr. William Nixon, a former Perquimans County resident. What gave the project a huge boost was a \$600,000 gift from the estate of the late Charles Ward. Ward left the money to the county with instructions it should be used for either a new library or

See STADIUM, 2

## County tackles smaller projects

BY PETER WILLIAMS  
 News Editor

Perquimans County is tackling some smaller projects this summer, including building restrooms at the new boat ramp on Granby Street and adding fresh sod and irrigation at the new county library.

The contractor that built the library wasn't required to lay sod, but instead just scattered some grass seed, said Perquimans County Manager Frank Heath. There was no irrigation and the grass was dying. That detracted from the looks of a brand-new \$2.5 million building, he said.

"It was always the plan to bring in sod and install irrigation," Heath said last week. "But we had to wait for the weather to get warmer."

Work started last week. Heath doesn't have a final cost figure, but said the county did have to install a second water meter for the irrigation system. He estimates the total price tag will be between \$10,000 and \$15,000. There was money left in the library budget to cover that.

The boat ramp was completed last year, but there wasn't any money to pay to build restrooms. The project was funded by the N.C. Wildlife Resources Commission with money from motorboat registration receipts; a federal Sport Fish Restoration Program and a Golden LEAF grant.

The access area features a 41-foot-wide concrete boat ramp and two 100-foot long floating docks. The asphalt parking lot includes 26 spaces for vehicles and

See COUNTY, 2

## Davison repays \$11,000 to board

BY WILLIAM F. WEST  
 AND JON HAWLEY  
 The Daily Advance

The Albemarle Commission Board of Delegates voted Thursday night to accept an \$11,000 check from the agency's executive director to resolve a conflict of interest involving her husband.

The board voted to accept the check from commission Executive Director Cathy Davison following an hour-long closed session. Delegate John Mitchener, a Chowan County commissioner, led the unanimous vote.

During an interview earlier on Thursday, Davison explained she had decided to refund the commis-



DAVISON

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## Man plans to refurbish historic 'Lowe's Beach'

BY REGGIE PONDER  
 The Daily Advance

History lives on at Lowe's Beach.

Joe White has found his own piece of paradise at the historic beach founded on

the Perquimans River more than 60 years ago, buying a home there 15 years ago. Now the military retiree said he plans to refurbish facilities at the site with hopes of operating Lowe's Beach beginning next summer as a public recreational site.

White, who grew up in Perquimans County, recently bought 10 acres or so where the Lowe's Beach club formerly stood. The

beach is located at the end of Lowe's Drive off Harvey Point Road not far past Hertford Beach Road.

Lowe's Beach is one of a number of beaches in the area that were established by black residents at a time when recreation — like much of the rest of life in North Carolina and across the South — was racially segregated and black families did not have access to

beaches that were frequented by whites.

Some of those historic black-owned beaches, such as Chowan Beach on the Chowan River in Hertford County and Bogue's Beach on the Little River in Pasquotank County, are currently being featured in the "Memorable Sands" exhibit on display at Museum of

See BEACH, 2



THE DAILY ADVANCE

Joe White plans to refurbish facilities at the site with hopes of operating Lowe's Beach beginning next summer as a public recreational site.

