



A Slow Learner?

When you add the Kuwait bailout to the S & L bailout and then throw in the cost of a trillion dollar deficit, about the only lips American taxpayers are going to be reading for the next decade will belong to the IRS.

The Iraqi takeover of Kuwait may have come just in time for President Bush to bolster his sagging popularity by a quick, well justified response; but the side effects on the economy and in developing a manageable budget for the federal government will not only test the President's popularity but the patience of the people as well.

A good question to be asking these days would be how many bailouts can we afford? We have been bailing out Europe through NATO for 40 years and are still not able to walk away from it. We have been bailing out Japan and Southeast Asia with a defense umbrella since the war and are still doing it. We bailed out South Korea and tried to do the same thing for South Vietnam at a combined cost of billions of dollars.

More recently, we bailed out Panama and Nicaragua at a cost which has not yet been determined. And we pick up little bits here and there about the billions of dollars a year in aid we are still sending to the Egyptians, the Turks and the Israeli, just to name a few.

We retook the Philippines from the Japanese and gave them their freedom and are now having to pay through the nose for the use of military and naval bases we built. And, besides that, we have to keep pouring in economic aid and bolstering up the government. And all we hear is, "Yankee, go home."

Now, we are at the business of bailing out Kuwait when, with that money, if we put our

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MURDER TRIAL--Defendant Claude Felton uses sign language to converse with an interpreter while his mother looks on during his first trial in February for a double murder. Three sign language interpreters were provided by the state for that trial and the current trial since Felton is a deaf mute.

Herald Celebrates 56th Anniversary

Fifty-six years ago, on August 30, 1934, the first edition of The Chowan Herald was published in Edenton. Today, the newspaper's General Manager, E.N. "Pete" Manning, is pleased to announce that several special events are planned to celebrate the Herald's years of service here.

In making the announcement, Manning said, "A newspaper plays a vital role in any community, especially a smaller one such as ours. Having been with the Herald for many years, I have been able to observe first-hand how the paper acts as a chain, linking all segments of the population."

J.P. Huskins, the newspaper's publisher, stated, "This celebration will be our way of thanking the local people for their past support, and will act as a signal of our intention to remain a viable part of life in Chowan County for many years to come."

Howard E. Kohn II, Director of Special Projects for the Herald, originated the idea of this commemorative occasion, and will be overseeing

the plans for the anniversary. Assisting Kohn will be The Chowan Herald's Associate Editor, Rebecca Bunch, who will be acting as Promotion and Publicity Chairman.

As part of the observance, an exhibit of old photographs and other materials dating from the newspaper's early days will be on display during the month of October at the Shepard-Pruden Library in Edenton. In addition, an informal anniversary dance is being arranged for December 1 at the American Legion Building. All proceeds from the dance will be donated to a community project.

Planning is currently underway to finalize a number of other events for area residents to enjoy in conjunction with the anniversary. Details will be announced in upcoming issues of The Chowan Herald.

Driving Care Urged

Schools are set to open today and the Town of Edenton has put up "Schools Open - Drive

D.A. Seeks Death Penalty Second Trial Underway

By JACK GROVE

A second trial began Monday for Claude Augustus Felton, 37, charged with the murders of his former girlfriend, Sarah Ann Jones, 26, and Falinda Brooks, 11, Ms. Jones' daughter.

Ms. Jones had been stabbed to death and the child was shot in the head. The bodies were found in their Davis Place apartment on August 28, 1988.

Felton was first tried for the double slayings last February but the jury couldn't agree on a verdict. District Attorney H.P. Williams made it clear this week that he was seeking the death penalty on the first degree murder charges.

Jury selection began Monday and the panel was selected by late Tuesday afternoon. Of the 12 jurors and two alternates, four are white males and four of the ten females are black.

Two groups of prospective jurors of 100 each had been notified to appear on Monday and Tuesday. A number were excused from serving and more were eliminated under questioning from the defense and prosecution on Monday. Only one remained at the end of the day after the selection of five jurors.

The jury was sent home Tuesday afternoon while the defense offered a number of pre-trial motions. Motions approved by Superior Court Judge Cy A. Grant of Bertie County included: the disclosure of prior statements made by the state's witnesses (to be received by the defense prior to its cross-examination of those witnesses); disclosure by the state of any criminal records of state's witnesses; and discovery of the evidence the state intends to present during the trial.

Defense motions the judge

denied were: disclosure of any aggravating and mitigating circumstances to be used by the state in the sentencing phase of the trial if there is one; and a request to limit the number of photographs of the victims to be presented as evidence.

At press time Wednesday, the prosecution team of Williams and Assistant District Attorney Nancy Lamb made its opening statement. Felton's attorneys, William T. Culpepper and Samuel B. Dixon reserved their opening statement until after the state presented its case.

Lead-off witness for the state was Ms. Jones' daughter, Toya, who was 12 at the time of the murders. She discovered the bodies on the Sunday morning after staying overnight with her grandmother. She was unable to get in the apartment since the

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FINISHING UP--The finishing touches were being put on the exterior of the new exceptional children's building at D.F. Walker last week. It is scheduled to be in use today for the first day of the school year.

Construction Bids Are Accepted

At a special meeting Monday night, the Edenton-Chowan School Board committed

the largest portion of the \$7 million in school bond money when they accepted construction bids.

In what is generally considered a rare situation, the bids came in under budgeted cost. "The whole thing's under budget," said Schools Superintendent John Dunn this week.

The bond issue is funding a sports complex at John A. Holmes High School, an exceptional children's building at D.F. Walker School and a new building and renovations to the existing building at Chowan Middle School.

At another specially called meeting Monday morning, County Manager Cliff Copeland reported to the board of commissioners on the bond issue status.

As a result of a presentation given recently by county officials in New York City, Moody's Investors Service

gave the county a credit rating of Baa+1 while Standards and Poors gave the county a rating of BBB+.

The exceptional children's building is virtually complete and will be occupied today. Site work is complete at the middle school and construction is expected to begin soon. Site work is underway at the high school.

Successful bidders for the work are: Pettit Construction Co., \$2,307,662 for building and finishes; Braxton Britt Plumbing, Inc., \$265,100, plumbing; Bass Plumbing & Heating, \$503,600, heating, ventilation and air-conditioning; Alexander & Stallings of Edenton, \$558,663, electrical; and Southeastern Acoustical Ceilings, \$50,737, acoustical.

Also, Virginia Food Equipment Corp., \$126,860, kitchen equipment; The Conrad Co.,

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Authority Considers Tourism Signs

When the Chowan County Tourism Development Authority met on Tuesday, County Manager Cliff Copeland reported that the July occupancy tax receipts of \$3,656 surpassed those of any month to date. The amount collected over a ten month period totals \$25,280.16, he said.

Arch Edwards gave authority members an estimate received from Ambrose Signs of Elizabeth City on the cost per sign of directional signs to place around Edenton. The 3'x5' weatherized signs would cost approximately \$2,000 each.

Suggestions were considered regarding strategic location of the signs. However, action was delayed on the matter pending further investigation of type, costs, and design.

Copeland said that Judy Randall of the Lyerly Agency told him that the authority might be eligible to receive matching grant money for signs.

Town Councilman Livy Goodman felt that a committee of authority members should be set up to provide a liaison with Historic Edenton.

"We need to strengthen our communications," Copeland agreed.

County Commissioner Joe Hollowell recommended adding another member to the authority, an act that has to be approved by the board of

county commissioners.

"I think that Linda Eure, Historic Edenton site manager, should be on the author-

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INFORMATION PROVIDED--Judy Randall of the Charlotte-based Lyerly Agency reported to the Tourism Development Authority recently on the results of a survey of Edenton visitors. At left is Richard Bunch of the Chamber of Commerce and at right is County Commissioner Joe Hollowell. Her company has been hired by the authority to help promote tourism.