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THE CHOWAN HERALD



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Testimony Is Over, Judge Limits Closing Arguments

By LANE DUNN
FARMVILLE -- The judge in the Little Rascals Day Care case denied defense motions Monday to dismiss charges against Robert F. Kelly Jr. as attorneys finished the evidence portion of the trial and prepared for closing arguments.

The motion by the defense to drop charges is standard procedure in criminal trials.

Nearly 150 charges against Kelly have been dropped in the course of the seven-month trial.

Kelly faces 97 charges of sexually abusing 12 children from the Little Rascals Day Care Center which he owned and operated with his wife, Betsy. Mrs. Kelly and five others are also charged and await trial.

The defense decided not to

offer more witnesses in the trial, which is the longest in state history. Testimony began in August 1991. The prosecution offered 83 witnesses in its 18-week case. The defense called 60 people to the stand in its nine-week portion of the case.

Judge D. Marsh McLeland ruled against the defense on two motions to dismiss all charges.

Defense attorney Jeffrey Miller said the state had not produced evidence to prove many of the charges remaining against Kelly.

Miller also said charges should be dropped because prosecutors did not provide all of their information in relation to specific charges. He said the Bill of Particulars, a court document stating allegations against Kelly, is in-

complete because it does not contain specific dates or places abuse allegedly occurred.

Prosecutors say the document contains all of the specifics they had about the allegations.

But defense attorneys said information came out in the trial showing that the state did have much of that information but refused to turn it over.

"The state did not comply

with its obligation to the Bill of Particulars so that they purposely could leave matters vague...and we might never know which offense was being tried," Miller said.

"Their failure to (release information) affected the defendant's ability to prepare a defense," he added.

Prosecutor Bill Hart said the state had been as specific
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PROUD MOMENT -- Howard E. Kohn II, left, director of Special Projects for The Chowan Herald, and Herald Publisher Pete Manning, third from left, offer their congratulations to Police Captain G.K. Bonner and Chief Harvey Williams Saturday morning as the department's officers gather to be fitted for bulletproof vests.

Officers Fitted For New Vests

By REBECCA BUNCH
A jubilant Police Chief C.H. Williams gathered with his men at police headquarters Saturday morning where they were measured and fitted for bulletproof vests.

"This is one of the happiest days of my life," he said with a grin. "I still can't believe that it's true."

The event marked the realization of a longtime dream for Chief Williams and other officers. Williams said he had long realized the importance of having the protection afforded by the vests, and had been actively trying for several years to obtain funds to purchase them.

He and his officers repeat-

edly expressed gratitude for the community support that had enabled them to order the vests. "Everyone has really come through for us," he said. "We've had countless civic groups, businesses and individuals donate money to help us...their support really does mean a lot."

Williams credited the hard work of Howard E. Kohn II, director of Special Projects for The Chowan Herald, with getting the ball rolling earlier this year. "He has certainly done a fine job on this. When he and the newspaper got involved, we started to see re-

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Paxton Wants To Clean Up NC Insurance Dept.

By MARGUERITE MCCALL
Charles Paxton, 39, of Cabarrus County visited Edenton Tuesday, March 10, campaigning for Insurance Commissioner of North Carolina.

An assistant to the commissioner in 1984-85 and a Democrat, Paxton is running against James E. Long, the incumbent insurance commissioner of the state.

"Help Charles Paxton Clean Up the Insurance Department," said the bright red words on white wrappers covering the wee bars of soap Paxton freely dispensed to all whom he met while in town.

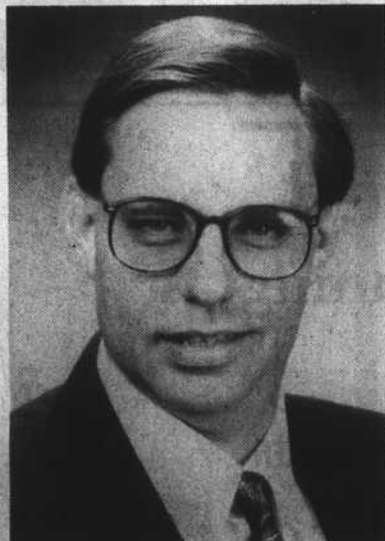
He stated that he adopted the bar of soap as the symbol of his crusade for change.

"My message is simple," he said. "Somebody needs to step forward and reform that department (insurance)."

He said if elected, the auditor's report will be used as a guideline for the "clean up" operation.

"I know the battle ahead will not be easy," he said. "But in the end, everyone in this state will say, 'Where

There Is Soap, There Is Hope."



Charles Paxton

Paxton attended UNC-Charlotte where he received his BA degree in Political Science with a background in Business. He is the president of Paxton & Son Tire Company in Harrisburg, N.C.

"I will clean up the Insurance Department," he reiterated prior to leaving, while rubbing the motel-sized bar of soap between thumb and forefinger.

Volunteers Are Needed

The Economic Improvement Council needs volunteers who would be willing to help with an upcoming project to make improvements to the homes of senior citizens, the disabled and the handicapped in Chowan County.

"We need assistance from anyone who has any spare time they could give to help us in writing up descriptions of the work that needs to be done on these homes," said EIC spokesman Gil Johnson. "We'd be delighted to hear from some of our retired people and others who would like to help with this project."

Johnson said anyone who would be willing to help could contact him at 482-8547 (weekdays).

JOBS Program Established

By REBECCA BUNCH
Helping community residents with children under age 18 become independent of welfare programs and learn to succeed in life is the goal of the newly established Chowan County JOBS program.

Carried out through the auspices of the Department of Social Services, the program targets AFDC (Aid to Families with Dependent Children) recipients who fall into one of the following categories:

- Custodial parents under age 24 who have not completed high school and are not currently enrolled.
- Custodial parents under age 24 who have reported little or no work history during the preceding year.
- Individuals not falling into either of the preceding

groups who have a child at home who is between 16-18 years of age.

"The big difference between this and most plans is that it emphasizes getting an education and a job," said Sherry Jordan, lead social worker for the Chowan Department of Social Services (DSS). "It shows welfare recipients that there is a way out...that they can get out of this cycle of dependency and lead productive, successful lives."

Mrs. Jordan said that AFDC families have been very receptive so far to the help offered by the program. "We have many people who want to get into the JOBS program," she said, "and we are still conducting assessments to determine who qualifies."

She said it is hoped that eventually the program will be able to assist as many as 150 participants each year.

Currently, the Chowan JOBS program is being carried out by Melissa Perry and Elaine Lewis with assistance from their office manager, Mary Skinner. The group held their first orientation session in early March.

"We feel like things went well," said Mrs. Skinner. She said that 17 out of 30 prospective applicants had attended and seemed to respond to the program's message.

Persons who enroll in the program must get an AFDC referral first, according to Mrs. Jordan. She said that the JOBS program has as its goal providing ongoing education,
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Mayor Wants To Cut Off Heat

By MARGUERITE MCCALL
Mayor Roy Harrell asked to be placed on the town council agenda Tuesday, March 10, to speak to the council regarding several concerns.

He said he had already asked Town Manager Anne-Marie Kelly to meet with him to discuss how to correct some procedural and management problems.

Heating unused buildings, he said, specifically the old EIC building at the airport and the old Police Department building, is an added expense to the Town.

"We need to cut off the heat and drain the pipes in buildings not being used," Harrell advised. "Doing so will result in a savings of \$7,000 to \$8,000 in the next few months and a continued savings in the future."

Owing over \$53 million on a debt to North Carolina Eastern Municipal Power Agency (NCEMPA) that was \$49 million ten-years ago didn't make sense, Harrell said.

"Why \$4 million more?" he said he questioned in a letter written February 17 to Jim Bobo, a power agency official. He said Bobo's reply, which arrived on March 4, was addressed to Ms. Kelly.

The mayor read Bobo's answer, a 78-word-long sentence that concluded "the amount you (the Town of Edenton) owe cannot be determined."

Councilwoman Marina Crumme said the rates fluctuate on the power agency bond issue.

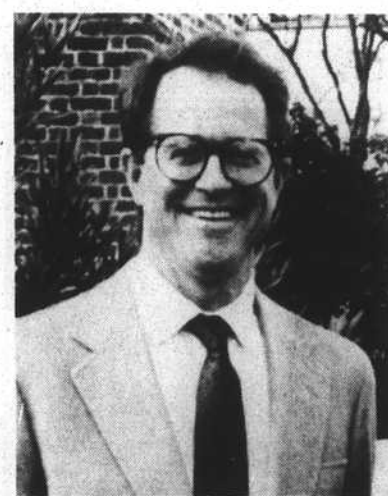
"If the power agency ever pays off the bond," she said, "we won't owe anything. We

buy our power each month from them. We do owe a debt.

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Brandon Visits Edenton

By REBECCA BUNCH
Williamston mayor Tom Brandon visited Edenton Friday as he continued his campaign for the First District seat in the United States Congress held by Rep. Walter B.



Thomas Brandon

Jones Sr. His wife, the former Jane Bell of Windsor, is a school-teacher, a fact Brandon said had made him more aware of the importance of bolstering educational efforts on behalf of North Carolina's children.

"I want to see even greater support for education, and to push for additional funding for programs that will help our children," he said. Brandon added that he personally favored the year-round school concept and believed that American schools would have to model themselves along the lines of those in Germany and Japan if American youngsters were to remain competitive with their peers.

He also said that he felt teachers were called upon to

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Suspects Elude Police

Edenton police gave chase to two subjects seen running from George Chevrolet Body Shop at 12:30 a.m. Monday.

A person living near the business called the department saying he heard noises indicating that a break-in might be taking place.

Upon their arrival, Officers Linard Bonner, Stacey

Boyce and Ronnie Stallings saw two males leaving the shop located at the intersection of Oakum and Johnston Sts.

In the pursuit, the officers lost sight of the subjects in the Badham Rd. area near the railroad tracks.

Police Chief Harvey Williams said an investigation is continuing.

Edenton United
Methodist Church

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FRIDAY, MARCH 20 - 2 TO 7 P.M.

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