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Sentence Handed Down

Wilson Guilty

By MARGUERITE MCCALL
Kathryn Dawn Wilson, 27, a defendant in the Little Rascals Day Care Center case, was found guilty Tuesday on 5 of 7 counts with which she was charged.

She was sentenced to one life term, to include 16 months already served while awaiting trial.



Kathryn Dawn Wilson

Wilson must serve 18 years and 8 months before being eligible for parole in the year 2011.

During presentencing discussion, Defense Attorney Edward B. Simmons said he was appalled the State would request such a heavy sentence when it had been willing earlier to accept a plea bargain arrangement.

The plea bargain discussions centered around the is-

sue of whether Wilson would have to serve additional jail time beyond the 16 months already served. Wilson was willing to plead guilty for no additional jail time, an arrangement the State considered unacceptable.

Jurors brought in verdicts of guilty on one first degree sex offense, which can carry a life sentence, and guilty on four taking indecent liberties offenses, each of which can carry a ten-year sentence.

Wilson was found not guilty on one first degree sex offense and one taking indecent liberties offense, both of which involved incidents allegedly having taken place on a boat.

Asked by an associated press reporter why the defendant was not convicted on the latter, a juror replied, "There was not enough evidence a boat existed."

The verdict came in at approximately 3:50 p.m., about 20 minutes after the afternoon break. No outbursts occurred when the verdict was read.

Not expecting a verdict until at least Thursday, especially since court did not sit in session Monday due to a juror's illness, newsmen present to interview Wilson earlier in the day had left before the verdict came in. Contacted en route home, several returned.

By 4:15 p.m., while jurors

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PORTRAYAL OF BEGINNING -- Eighteenth-Century appearing coachman and passengers parade in front of the U. S. Capitol Building during the 52nd Presidential Inauguration Wednesday, January 20. The 200th Anniversary of the laying of the cornerstone of the Capitol will be celebrated on September 18, 1993. Wearing sash, collar and apron of the Masonic Order and using a marble-headed gavel and silver trowel, President George Washington did the honors on September 18, 1793. An Associate Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court in 1793, Edenton's Judge James Iredell may have been present. (Staff photo by Marguerite McCall.)

Inauguration Offers Something For Everyone

By MARGUERITE MCCALL
Sights; sounds; aromas; energy; excitement, and textures of people, animals and noble buildings imprinted a memory of the 52nd Presidential Inauguration observation via television would have left deficient.

Upon arrival in the nation's capital two hours prior to U.S. President William

Jefferson Clinton's swearing in, parking was sought and found still accessible at the

Ramada Renaissance Hotel on Ninth Street. A North Carolina Inaugur-

al Reception held at the hotel to honor President Clinton and Continued On Page 12-A

Two Juveniles Are Arrested

By MARGUERITE MCCALL
Two bomb threats called in to Chowan Middle School early last week have resulted in the arrest of two juveniles. A third call Friday afternoon is still under investigation.

Chowan County Sheriff Fred Spruill said Friday the first call came in during the afternoon of Tuesday, January 19, and the second the following morning.

He said working with the telephone company, a phone trace led his officers to the

offenders. Spruill said the youngsters have been turned over to juvenile authorities.

"They will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law," the sheriff said.

Edenton-Chowan Schools Superintendent John Dunn said school officials had anticipated such an act occurring, particularly in view of the threat two weeks ago at Perquimans High School, and had the tracers installed on all school telephone lines in the town and county.

He said the students arrested were suspended at the time of their actions.

"They will be suspended for the remainder of the school year," Dunn said, "and barred from attending any school activities."

Dunn emphasized future calls to any school in the town and county will be identifiable. Prefixes of local and nearby counties are entered into the tracers, he said.

"The telephone company is working on the one that came in today," Dunn said.

The call Friday was received at 2 p.m.

"As a first effort, we treat the matter as a real threat," Dunn said. "It is a serious matter and has to be treated as real, which means evacuating the building and conducting a search."

Dr. Dunn praised those agencies responding to the emergencies.

They were the Chowan Sheriff's Office; the Center Hill Cross Roads Volunteer Fire Department; Edenton, Glidden and Rocky Hock Emergency Medical Services and Chowan EMS Management Coordinator Doug Belch.

Dunn reiterated his warning that, "We do have the means to identify calls, and when a caller is caught, he or she will be prosecuted to the fullest extent the law allows."

Residents To Begin Crime Watch Program

By MARGUERITE MCCALL
Organizational efforts began last week to start a Community Crime Watch Program in an area near Downtown Edenton.

Thirty-three residents living in the section bounded on the east by S. Broad, the south by Water and Blount, the north by W. Queen and the west to include Moseley St. and Pembroke Circle signed-up to participate in the program.

The group met Thursday, January 21, in the Town Hall council chamber.

Co-chairmen Livy Goodman, 2nd Ward councilman,

and Harry Sperry, an Airport Advisory Board member, said they were emphasizing the fact that everyone in the designated neighborhoods should get involved.

Noting that the program has been successfully implemented in the Morgan Park neighborhood, Goodman said, "We hope that it will spread throughout Edenton."

Sperry said, "For some time now we've been deeply concerned about the growing rate of thefts, break-ins and vandalism in the various neighborhoods of Edenton."

"And now in our own neighborhood there have been several recent car break-ins and thefts."

Edenton Police Capt. Gregory Bonner and Officer Lewis Brothers, crime prevention officer, met with the group.

"I was surprised so many older citizens turned out for the meeting," Bonner said Monday, "especially since it was raining so hard that evening."

"It makes us feel good that people in the community want to do something about crime. They understand we don't have enough officers to see

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Shoplifters Are Arrested

The alertness of Edenton Police Officer Rhonda Copeland resulted in the apprehension Friday of two shoplifters from Virginia.

Chief F.E. Bowen of Windsor had radioed Edenton Police a description of the pair, the type and color of their vehicle and that the vehicle carried a Virginia registration.

Bowen reported merchandise had been stolen from a hardware store in Windsor.

Later, police discovered the thieves had also hit Williamston on their way to Edenton.

Officer Copeland was on foot patrol on S. Broad St. when she spotted the couple leaving Byrum's Hardware. She recognized them from the description, Officer Linnard Bonner said Monday.

Bonner said Copeland reported the couple also acted suspicious. When she saw them go to their vehicle, she

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ARE YOU READY? -- Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Richard Bunch (far right) greets local civic and business leaders attending the ribbon cutting and open house at COA's Chowan County Center Sunday afternoon. Bunch and Howard E. Kohn II, former director of Special Projects for The Chowan Herald, were praised by Dr. Parker Chesson, keynote speaker, as men of vision who worked hard to see a college facility established here. (Staff photo by Rebecca Bunch)

Dream Realized With Ribbon Cutting

By REBECCA BUNCH
Dr. J. Parker Chesson, former president of College of the Albemarle, was the keynote speaker for the open house that marked the official opening of the COA Chowan County Center.

Dr. Chesson, who left COA to become Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer of the North Carolina Department of Community Colleges in Raleigh, was instrumental during his tenure in planning the center here.

"It's good to be home," he said. "I think the most beautiful drive you can take is coming down Hwy. 17, crossing the Chowan River...and on into Perquimans."

Dr. Chesson said the completion of the Chowan County Center had a special meaning

for him. "Working with the citizens in this community (to establish the center) was the last major act I had as president of COA," he said. "I had as president...had a dream that COA would one day reach out to Chowan and maybe Dare County with dedicated facilities such as this. Now that dream has become a reality."

Seeing College of the Albemarle become a strong presence in Chowan County was also a dream of the late Al Phillips, longtime chairman of the Chowan County Commissioners. Dr. Chesson indicated. "(He was) one of the first people I really talked to," Chesson said.

According to Dr. Chesson, Mr. Phillips expressed two major concerns: that the

young people were leaving and never coming back, once they left home to pursue an education; and that the lack of skilled workers in the com-

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Helpful Hints Given

For the benefit of our readers, this issue of The Chowan Herald includes a four-page section devoted to "Tax Tips," the very latest information from the IRS about filing tax returns properly.

The tax section, sponsored by area businesses, begins on page 5-B.