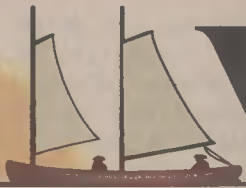


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THE PERQUIMANS WEEKLY



"News from Next Door"

SEPTEMBER 15, 2010 - SEPTEMBER 21, 2010

50 cents

Murder trial begins for mother, daughter

By WILLIAM F. WEST
The Daily Advance

The murder trial of a mother and her daughter, accused of killing a man who was husband to one and father to the other, began in Perquimans Superior Court yesterday.

The jury, selected in a day-long process on Monday, heard opening arguments in the cases of Jennie White, 64, and Katherine White, 45. The two women are charged with first-degree murder in connection with the

death of Thomas Woodrow White, 58, in June 2007 in the Bethel community. Both women are held without bond at Albemarle Regional Jail. The two women, if convicted, face life imprisonment without the possibility of parole.

The jury selection started about 10:30 a.m. Monday and was completed shortly before 4:30 p.m., with Superior Court Judge Cy Grant allowing lunch and stretch breaks during the process.

The case goes to trial after a year-long delay. Authorities have said

they received a call in the early morning hours of June 23, 2007, to investigate a possible breaking and entering and an unresponsive person at 117 Mill Road.

Thomas Woodrow White was found dead in his bed, the victim of what appeared to be a gunshot to the head, authorities have said.

Jennie White and Katherine White maintained that they had gone to the Moose Lodge in Elizabeth

See TRIAL, 9



WILLIAM F. WEST/
THE DAILY ADVANCE
Jennie White (left) and her daughter, Katherine White (right) leave the Perquimans County Courthouse Annex following jury selection for the trial in which the two are charged in the 2007 murder of Thomas White, Monday.

NAACP to honor Lt. Col. Hoffler

From staff reports

The Perquimans County NAACP will honor Lt. Col. Joseph W. Hoffler, USAF-Ret., with a reception on Sept. 20, 6 p.m., at First Baptist Church.

Hoffler, from Perquimans County, became the first black squadron commander in the United States Air Force Academy history.

Originally joining the military to escape racism and find a level playing field with his white peers, Hoffler says racism still found him at the academy.

He has written a book, "Promotion: Denied", in which he chronicles his tour at the U.S. Air Force Academy in an era where he says racism was rampant, sanctioned, and approved.

Hoffler, the son of a self-employed auto mechanic and school teacher from Perquimans, he is the youngest of six children.

He graduated with a bachelor of science in biology from North Carolina Central University, and later received a masters of business administration from the University of Missouri.

He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force and completed basic training at Lackland Air Force Base. He was assigned as a security policeman at Traux Field and later entered officer's training school.

His career took him to England where he crossed trained into the missile career field.

Because he consistently achieved outstanding re-

See HOFFLER, 2

Festive Hertford



STAFF PHOTOS BY THOMAS J. TURNER

A large crowd turned out to enjoy the beautiful weather during Saturday's Indian Summer Festival.

Fun, food, laughter make Indian Summer

By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

Three-year-old Jada Lassiter ate a berry-flavored snow cone out of a cup and squealed with delight while showing a stranger her blue lips.

The little girl from Hertford was one of hundreds of children who, along with parents, grandparents, and visitors alike enjoyed the perfect weather Saturday during the 29th Indian Summer Festival in Hertford.

"We've been coming for the past couple of years," said her mother Holly who enjoys the variety of musical acts onstage underneath the shade of the large trees on the historic courthouse green.

"And the kids' venue," she

quickly added, as she scampered off to catch up with her active one-year-old son.

Vendors selling everything from handcrafts to shelving to tickets for an upcoming concert kept the crowd busy. A parade of entertainment ranging from jazz to pop to gospel entertained those lucky enough to grab a seat to rest their tired feet. Political candidates set up shop and canvassed the crowd, authors camped out to sell their books, and non-profit organizations offered lots of information. A busy corn hole tournament filled the grassy area adjacent to the post office, and children's games galore filled the Hertford Baptist Church parking lot.

The flavorful smell of barbecue wafted over the town and

led hungry festival-goers to the large tent adjacent to the barbecue cookers smoking on the back trailer. A large sandwich, piled high with succulent smoked pork and cole slaw sold for only \$3. Add a fresh squeezed lemonade for just a buck more.

Eileen Minster, originally from the western part of New York, said she has attended the local festival for four years, and enjoys the music as well as seeing everyone enjoying themselves.

"It's just amazing that this little place can put on such a nice affair," she marveled.

The day-long event began with a solemn 9-11 remembrance during which area law enforcement,

See FESTIVAL, 2



Damiana Sutton, 2, enjoys a snow cone at the Indian Summer Festival, Saturday.

WEEKEND WEATHER

FRIDAY
HIGH: 86 LOW: 67
ISOLATED T-STORMS

SATURDAY
HIGH: 81 LOW: 65
SUNNY

SUNDAY
HIGH: 82 LOW: 65
SUNNY



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Board concerned over lack of jail revenue

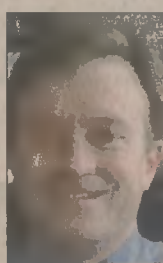
By CATHY WILSON
Staff Writer

County commissioners have voiced concerns to the Pasquotank County sheriff regarding revenue shortfalls in the new Albemarle District Jail.

County Manager Bobby Darden said a letter was sent to Sheriff Randy Cartwright August 30 after learning that the lack of federal prisoners housed in the new jail facility so far has created a revenue shortfall of about \$250,000 during the first two months of the fiscal year (July and August). The jail had projected receiving \$127,000 in revenue each month

in payment for housing federal inmates, Darden explained. So far, however, only \$2,000 per month has been taken in.

"Since it is very early in the fiscal year and the shortfall is so significant, the Perquimans commissioners are concerned about how this will impact the remainder of the year for the Albemarle District Jail," said Darden. "They are also concerned about how this will impact ADJ's fund balance and the possibility of each county having to increase their contributions to the jail mid-year." Darden said he talked with Sheriff Cartwright



Darden

last week who assured Darden he is working on increasing the number of federal inmates.

"There is a new federal marshal for the area, and Sheriff Cartwright said he is in discussions with the marshal," Darden said. In addition, Darden said all vacant positions at the facility have been frozen, and capital spending for the new facility has been stopped for now.

"He (Cartwright) said he was meeting with the accountant to get a better financial picture of where they are and what to expect in future months," Darden added. Commissioner Tammy Miller-White asked how the authority will fund that budget shortfall if additional federal inmates aren't available.

"They will bill the counties, that's what they will do," answered Commissioner Chairman Mack Nixon. "When you're bleeding that badly, you better get some help."

Darden pointed out that when the regional jail first opened, the authority was laden with the financial task of operating both the old and new jail facilities. All of the jail operations have now been transitioned into the new jail, he added. Perquimans is one of three counties that make up the regional jail authority, along with Pasquotank and Camden counties. Pasquotank funds 66 percent of the cost, Camden, 13 percent, and Perquimans pays for 21 percent. The funding formula was based on 2000 Census population figures. Historically, Perquimans County inmates comprise 15 percent or less of the total jail population.