

THE CHOWAN HERALD

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Curran, girlfriend sentenced

BY JEREMY DESPOSITO
Cox NC Publications

EDENTON - A former Arrowhead Beach man who killed his mother in 1998 was sentenced to serve a maximum of 34 years in prison last Wednesday.

Timothy Curran, 19, of Newport News, VA, pleaded guilty to second degree murder and conspiracy to commit murder. He must serve at least 28 years in prison before he will be eligible for parole.

Curran's girlfriend and co-defendant, Shelley Oldham, 16, was sentenced to a maximum of 27 years in prison, prosecuting attorney Michael Johnson said. She must serve at least 21 years before she will be eligible for parole.

Superior Court Judge Jerry Tillett of Dare County handed down the sentences.

"We feel justice was served," Johnson said Friday. "We tried to treat them equally."

Charles Busby, defense attorney for Curran, declined to comment. Sam Dixon, defense attorney for Oldham, did not return a phone call.

Initially, Curran confessed to murdering his mother, LeAnn Curran, at their Arrowhead Beach home. He later said, however, that Oldham was also involved in his mother's death.

Johnson said prosecutors made the plea offer because investigators knew there were two people involved in LeAnn Curran's murder.

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Chowan County volunteers recall the joys of helping in Honduras

An ecumenical group of 12 Chowan County residents returned from a missionary trip to Honduras early Monday tired, elated, spiritually uplifted and resolved to continue their efforts to reach out and help others.

"This has been the most uniquely moving experience of my life," said Charles Busby, a local attorney, after working for more than a week with Spanish-speaking workers at a construction site in San Pedro Sula, in northern Honduras. "When I say moving, I mean something that affects you in a way that is unique. I was dealing with people I didn't know and had nothing in common with. It was a singular experience for me. At some point it gets down to not what people are talking about, but how you work with them and get things done."

Busby, a member of Edenton United Methodist Church, said that his experiences in Honduras will affect his attitudes here in Edenton.

"When I see a Hispanic person in the grocery store or anywhere else, I will actually feel that it is an opportunity to engage them in conversation. That's a barrier that has been removed, at least temporarily."

Other members of the team were also moved by the experience.

"I have learned to be more appreciative of the basics in my life which many of our Honduran



Dr. Allen Hornthal, assisted by Dabney Narvaez, examines some of the 111 patients they treated. During the seven day period, 75 extractions were done. Among the obstacles the pair faced in providing treatment was a lack of running water. (See related photos on Page 13-B)

neighbors live without," said Mike McArthur, Clerk of Chowan County, and a member of the Macedonia Baptist Church. "I went to Honduras hoping to make someone else's life better and found myself to be the one who gained the most from watching despair turn to hope, talk turn into action and ideas made into concrete blocks for houses. I missed my fam-

ily and friends and look forward to sharing with them what they, too, can do to make this world better."

The group, which included eight members of St. Paul's Episcopal Church, spent 10 days near San Pedro Sula, mixing concrete and helping to fashion about 3,200 cement blocks, enough for three houses. They then moved the hardened blocks to where they were

needed, installed a metal roof on a building that would serve as a temporary church and trundled wheelbarrows of dirt into three houses under construction to form the subfloor.

They also ran a dental clinic and interacted with residents of a 200-house community being built under the auspices of the Episcopal Church for people made homeless

by Hurricane Mitch in 1998.

The group arrived in Honduras at about noon on Thursday, Oct. 12, loaded with items that had been donated for the trip. They brought 41 suitcases filled with infant and children's clothing, 18 soccer balls, shampoo, toiletries, sheets, school and

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Dedication ceremony slated for Nov. 11th

A flag dedication ceremony will be held at 1:45 p.m. on Saturday, Nov. 11, at Evans Funeral Home, 516 Virginia Road, Edenton. Rev. Ron Cava, pastor of Rocky Hock Baptist Church, will conduct the ceremony.

The United States Colors will be raised in honor and memory of all those who served in any branch of our nation's military.

"It is an honor to give something back to all those who have given so much to our country," said Jimmy Sawyer, Continuing Care Coordinator of the funeral home.

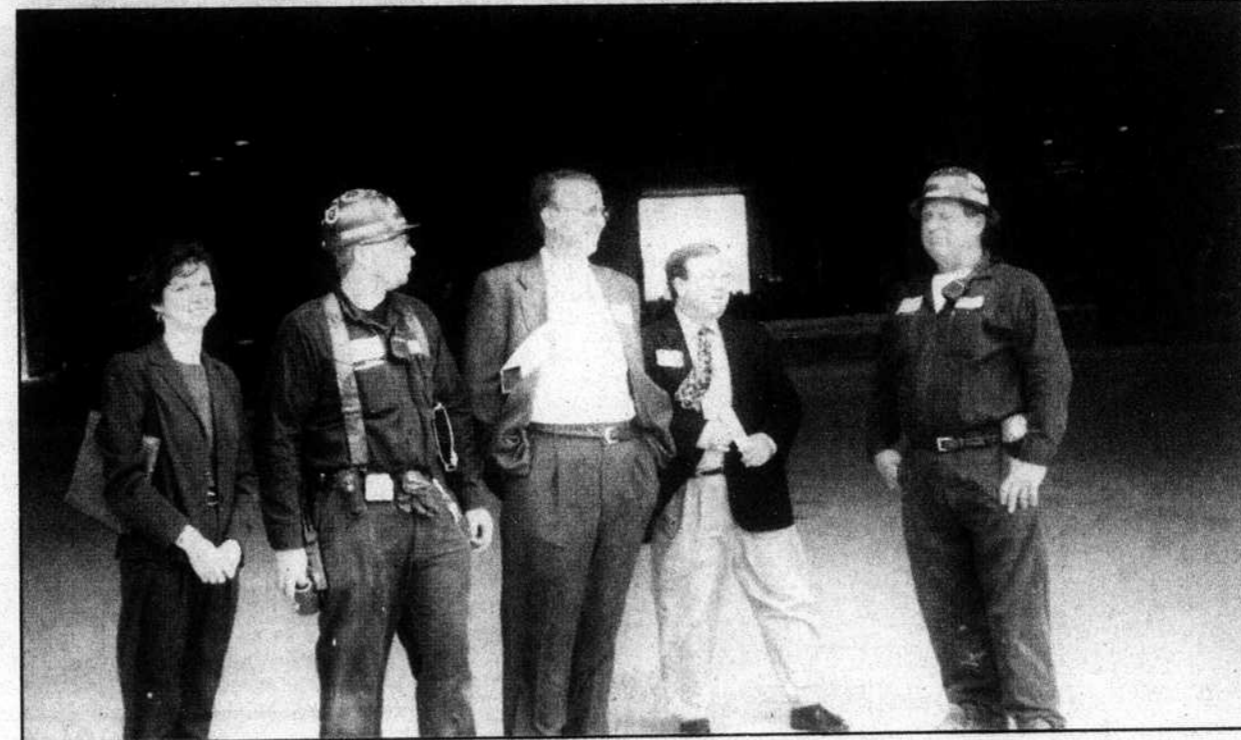
Following the dedication ceremony, a group of EPA-approved, biodegradable balloons will be released in an effort to raise money to help build a National World War II Memorial in Washington, DC. These balloons can be sponsored for \$10 in the name of a veteran or home front worker. The person's name can be written with a paint pen marker on the balloon before it is released. All donations from the balloon release will be used to

help build the memorial.

"We hope everyone in the community will come out and help give our veterans their long-awaited memorial," said Chris Evans, general manager of Evans Funeral Home.

About \$75 million of the \$100 million required to build the Memorial has already been raised. The National Funeral Home Directors Association has pledged to raise \$5 million of the remaining \$25 million needed to construct the Memorial. The memorial will feature a "Registry of Remembrances" database that will include the names of any American, veteran or worker on the home front, for whom registration forms have been received.

Refreshments will be served following the balloon release. The public is invited to attend. Individuals or organizations interested in making a contribution for a balloon, or working on the balloon release project, should contact Evans Funeral Home at 482-7474.



Edenton Town Manager Anne-Marie Knighton, left, Chowan County Manager Cliff Copeland, center, and Edenton-Chowan Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Richard Bunch (beside Copeland), talk with Nucor employees Jonathan Wheeler of Tyner (between Knighton and Copeland) and Neal Griffin of Edenton, at right. The group took the opportunity Thursday to attend Nucor's dedication ceremony to share the excitement and acknowledge what the multi-million-dollar steel mill will mean to the area. (Staff photo by David Crawley)

Area dignitaries attend Nucor facility's dedication ceremony

BY DAVID CRAWLEY
Publisher

COFIELD/WINTON - What started in earnest with an economic impact study in 1998 culminated last Thursday in a grand celebration by an entire region of North Carolina. The celebration was held near the banks of the mighty Chowan River in rural Hertford County.

Leaders from all over North

Carolina's Northeast came together with Governor Jim Hunt and Commerce Secretary, Rick Carlisle, to enjoy the fruits of what has seemingly been a heartfelt mission for both men. A mission that, according to many, will get our section of the State jumpstarted and on the fast track for economic development in a huge way was finally a reality.

Nucor, described as the largest recycler in the United States, is a

\$4.7 billion diversified manufacturer of steel and steel products. The plant started about two weeks ago and shipped its first truckload of steel plates on Friday, Oct. 20. According to company officials, Nucor has built its success on a unique combination of technology, dedication of its people and stewardship for the environment.

The mammoth Nucor-Hertford

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Aldridge to speak at banquet

John J. Aldridge from the NC Attorney General's Office will be the keynote speaker for this year's Chowan County Law Enforcement Appreciation Banquet, set for Thursday, Nov. 2 (tomorrow night) at the American Legion Post 40 on West Queen Street Extended in Edenton.

Social begins at 5:30 p.m. and the banquet starts at 7 p.m. Highlights of the evening will include recognition by the Chowan-Edenton Optimist Club of an officer for his/her work with youth. And Post 40 will recognize an officer, selected by a committee of his or her peers, as the officer of the year.

Aldridge received a Bachelor of Science degree from East Carolina University in 1980 and a Juris Doctorate degree from Campbell University School of Law in 1983. Upon completing law school, he was accepted into the United States Air Force Judge Advocate General Corp where he served two and one-half years as a criminal prosecutor and advisor to the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. He also served an additional one and a half years as a criminal defense attorney for the Air Force.

Aldridge currently serves in the Judge Advocate General Corp of the United States Air Force Reserves. Following his active duty tour with the United States Air Force, he was an instructor/coordinator at the North Carolina Justice Academy where he spoke on

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Open House planned

The Chowan Herald will host an Open House and Reception next Thursday afternoon, Nov. 9, from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m.

The public is cordially invited to come by and tour the newspaper's newly renovated offices at 421-425 South Broad Street in downtown Edenton.

Refreshments will be served. "We are very proud of the results of this extensive renovation of this fine old building, and are looking forward to sharing our excitement with all our many friends and supporters," said Chowan Herald Publisher David Crawley.

165th homecoming @ Rocky Hock Baptist Church Nov. 5, 2000
celebration
Dinner on Grounds Service Starts @ 10:30 a.m.
Special Guest: Larry McClarie Singspiration @ 2:00 p.m.