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Roulac found not guilty in domestic violence murder

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

A jury found Leon Roulac not guilty of murdering Leon Pulliam in April 2003 in Chowan County Superior Court last week.

Roulac had been charged with second-degree murder in the slaying. After three days of testimony, the jury took about an hour to find Roulac innocent. Roulac shot Pulliam after Pulliam broke into Bridgett Roulac's home on April 11, 2003. Bridgett Roulac is Leon

Roulac's sister. She testified on her brother's behalf during the trial.

"We were delighted with the outcome," Mike Sanders, Roulac's attorney, said Tuesday. "I'm just happy for Leon."

Sanders declined to say whether Tyrone Brothers or other state's witnesses helped his or the state's cases.

"I'm reluctant to guess what the jury did or didn't believe," Sanders said. "The bigger picture is that you had a home invasion. The state had a difficult case to prosecute."

It was Pulliam's behavior toward Bridgett Roulac that was key to his client's defense, Sanders said.

"The jury needed to know about (Pulliam)," he said. "It was very important (the jury) knew the history (between Bridgett Roulac and Pulliam)."

Assistant District Attorney Michael Johnson agreed that he and fellow prosecutor Brinkley Faulcon had a "tough case" to pitch to the jury. They had to convince the jury that Pulliam's murder was not justifiable because Leon Roulac

used excessive force in the killing.

"The question was, based on the evidence we had, (Leon Roulac) just shot him more than was necessary," Johnson said Tuesday.

Johnson said he respected the jury's verdict.

"They made their decision," he said. "It was a fair trial."

Throughout the trial, Sanders pushed Pulliam's violent nature while prosecutors asserted that Leon Roulac shot Pulliam twice — including a fatal shot to the chest — after

he reportedly went down. Leon Roulac has not denied shooting Pulliam. Sanders said his client shot Pulliam in defense of himself, his sister, and his niece, who was 5 years old at the time, at the home of Reginald & Mary home of Bridgett Roulac.

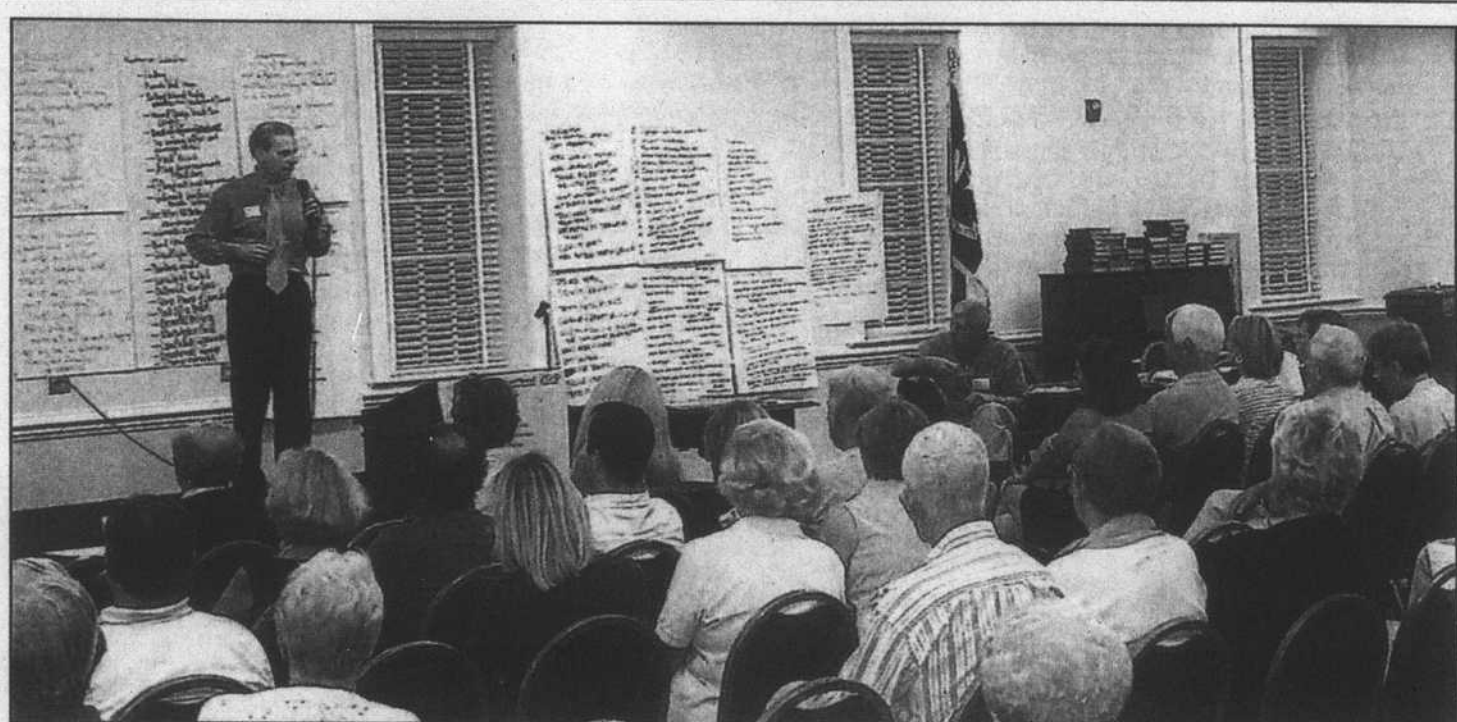
Brothers testified that Leon Roulac stood at "close range, on top of" Pulliam and shot him "execution style." No other witnesses claimed to have seen exactly where Roulac and Pulliam were during the shooting. Bridgett

Roulac has said she has no memory of the incident after her brother fired the first shot. She was reportedly hysterical when police and EMS workers arrived after she placed a 911 call.

"I tried to console her," at the scene, Edenton Police Chief Greg Bonner testified Sept. 8.

Bridgett Roulac initially told Bonner, the lead investigator in the case, that she shot Pulliam. Bonner testified that she could not tell him just how

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Rodney Swink, Director of North Carolina Main Street addresses the large crowd about the future of downtown Edenton.

Staff Photos by Earline White

Envisioning a picture perfect Edenton

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

It is a powerful thing to watch hundreds of people coming together to work for a common goal. It is just as exciting when the people coming together are the people in your community and the objective is to make downtown appealing for newcomers as well as the locals.

Thursday, September 9th, Main Street held its first ever Visioning Session. Jennifer Harriss, Director of Edenton's Main Street, brought in Rodney Swink and Meg Dees, Director and Assistant Director of North Carolina Main Street. With the help of over one hundred

inspired citizens grew a vision of what Edenton might look like in 2010.

Swink addressed the crowd with a little history lesson of the Main Street Project. "Main Street started in 1980. At the time, six states were selected and five cities for a transformation, so to speak. Now the Main Street programs extends to 33 states and over 1700 communities across the US. Edenton is one of 53 Main Street communities in North Carolina since 1980."

"The program is in four parts: organization, promotion, design, and economic restructuring.

The Visioning started on a simple level, asking what are downtown's assets. And to really get the citizens thinking,

Main Street had the "Picture Downtown" display on hand. "Picture Downtown" was a campaign, which asked locals to take snapshots of what ar-

eas they liked within the downtown district, such as flowers, storefronts, and

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"Picture Downtown", a display of Edenton's strengths and weaknesses got citizens thinking about renovating downtown.

Broadnax is named Chowan County's Teacher of the Year

A panel of local dignitaries Thursday named John A. Holmes High School teacher Sherlton Broadnax the Chowan County Teacher of the Year.

Chowan Board of Commissioners chairman Louis Belfield, Chamber of Commerce executive director Richard Bunch, and school board chairman Gene Jordan interviewed and reviewed the written applications of Teachers of the Year from each of the county schools before naming Broadnax as the county's representative. Mary Helen Gaddy from Chowan Middle School, Connie Ashley from White Oak School, and Robert Copeland from D. F. Walker School also were named Teach-

ers of the Year for their schools.

Broadnax, a science teacher known for making each of her students one of "her babies," has been teaching with

Edenton-Chowan Schools for 28-years.

"Mrs. Broadnax is a jewel," said Edenton-Chowan Schools superintendent Allan Smith. "Every student that passes through her biology classroom leaves with a gift beyond measure."

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Broadnax

'Bricks' project to fund Barker House elevation

BY SEAN JACKSON
Staff Writer

Raising a 222-year-old house isn't just a challenge, it's a costly endeavor.

Chris Bean, a district court judge and member of the Edenton Historical Commission, says money is needed to raise the famed Barker House. The home, located at the end of South Broad Street on the waterfront, is at the 10-foot-above-

sea-level it's required to be to avoid potential storm flooding. The home was one of many battered by surging floodwaters from Hurricane Isabel last September. The cost to finish work on the home, a tourist destination on the Historic Edenton Walking Tour, is \$30,000.

"But we do not have sufficient funds," Bean said last

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A Local Tribute to our Nation's Heroes!

Commissioners look at ways to fix cell phone problem

BY EARLINE WHITE
Staff Writer

The Chowan County Board of Commissioners met in regular session Monday, September 13. Among the items on the agenda were reviews of ordinance amendments and cell phone tower coverage.

It was recommended by Peter Rascoe and Elizabeth Bryant to amend the Junk Car Ordinance to include the definition of an abandoned vehicle as required by State Law. A vehicle must be designated as abandoned 'junked'. Because the current ordinance does not specify the definition, it is not enforceable. Amendments would be passed in order to

strengthen the ordinances.

Commissioner Wayne Goodwin expressed concerns over the statute falling into the wrong hands. He admitted to having what onlookers may consider "junk" cars in his own yard - cars that he wants to one day 'fix up'. Goodwin asked for the board to make sure the amendment is worded more clearly for those who own abandoned cars that are not 'junked'. Cliff Copeland, County Manager, clarified that though this is a state statute; Chowan County will not needlessly enforce the law.

Two amendments were proposed in the Noxious Weeds and Nuisance Ordinance as well. In order to define clearly the purview, Rascoe and

Bryant suggested the title be "Public Nuisance Ordinance". With this revision, the abandoned vehicles can be declared a public nuisance or safety hazard, especially if the cars are unlocked for vagrants or children. If deemed a hazard, the County has the authority to remove the vehicle. Bryant quoted approximately 10 particular instances in localized areas that could be considered hazards by this ordinance revision.

The lack of cell phone coverage in the northern part of the county is a growing concern. During Hurricane Isabel, the best hope for communication was cell phone use. However, the apparent lack of coverage area could be a public

safety issue. County staff has pursued the construction of a new tower in Chowan County. Officials met with US Cellular in Greenville and confirmed their hopes to build a tower in the county in 2006 or 2007. Alternatives to accelerate this schedule were discussed. If the 911 Communications, Sheriff's Department, EMS and others

declare the current situation a public safety issue then forcing construction may be possible. Alltel was also contacted to make a plea for the construction of a new tower.

In order to cover the whole county, new towers will have to be located in Tyner as well as Colerain in neighboring Bertie County.

'Walk America' needs teams

The Chowan/Perquimans WalkAmerica 2004 will Kick-off with a special breakfast on Thursday, September 16 from 8 a.m. until 9 a.m. at Golden Corral. Please contact Mary Ellen Miles at 1-800-732-

7097 or Buddy Sawyer 338-5953 as soon as possible if you are interested in forming a team.

The Walk will take place Saturday, October 30 at the Edenton Waterfront Park.



Saturday, Sept. 18, 2004

CENTER HILL CROSS ROADS FIRE DEPARTMENT ANNIVERSARY SUPPER

From 4 pm - 7 pm

FIRE HOUSE CHICKEN

\$6.00 per plate

