

Mother gets 30 days for buying teens beer

By Sau Chan, Associated Press writer

WAREHAM -- A Plymouth mother of five will serve a month in jail after admitting yesterday that she bought several cases of beer for her teen-age son and his friends, two of whom drowned after drinking.

Anti-drinking activists and the parents of one of the dead boys called the sentence disappointing, saying it was too slight.

Roxanne Pulsifer, 36, pleaded guilty in Wareham District Court after accepting a two-year jail sentence, of which she will have to serve 30 days. She also was ordered to perform 500 hours of community service.

Ms. Pulsifer had withdrawn two previous guilty pleas after hearing the sentences that were to be imposed upon her.

Yesterday, she was in court with her 5-year-old son by her side.

"I feel sorrow and a great deal of pain for the families of the victims," Ms. Pulsifer said after the hearing. "For all involved it's best to end it here."

Ms. Pulsifer was accused of buying two 30-packs of beer during a party hosted by her teen-age son June 1. Two of her son's friends, John Linden, 17, and Jared Purser, 16, both of Plymouth, drowned when a canoe they took out later that night capsized on White Island Pond.

Parents of both victims were at the sentencing.

"I'm going to my son's grave to tell him what happened today," Cindi Linden said.

Tom Purser said he was disappointed both by the sentence and by the fact that Ms. Pulsifer won't begin serving it until June 30 so she can make child-care arrangements. He also wanted Ms. Pulsifer to address him in court.

June Shire, co-founder of the Plymouth County chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving, said Ms. Pulsifer's sentence was "a travesty of justice."

"After 30 days, she can go on with her life," Ms. Shire said "These boys who were killed, they can't."

Ms. Pulsifer twice withdrew her guilty plea after judges imposed sentences beyond what prosecutors recommended. The first withdrawal came in December when a judge recommended she serve two years in jail.

She again pleaded guilty to charges of supplying liquor to minors and contributing to the delinquency of minors, but recanted when a judge said she would have to spend 30 days of her sentence behind bars.

If Ms. Pulsifer had gone to trial, she faced up to 11 years in prison and \$20,000 in fines.

Wareham District Court Judge James O'Neil stayed Ms. Pulsifer's sentence until June 30. She will serve her sentence in Barnstable County House of Correction because Plymouth doesn't have a women's jail.
