



Department of Justice

United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley
District of North Dakota

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Beston and Amyotte Sentenced in Beating Death of Dunseith Woman

MINOT - United States Attorney Drew H. Wrigley announced that on December 1, 2008, **Chelsey P. Amyotte**, 18, and **Justin R. Beston**, 28, both of Dunseith, North Dakota, were sentenced before United States District Court Chief Judge Daniel L. Hovland for the beating death of 49-year-old Danielle Baker.

Amyotte was found guilty by a federal jury on September 12, 2008, on charges of involuntary manslaughter and assault resulting in serious bodily injury. Judge Hovland sentenced **Amyotte** to serve three years and ten months in federal prison, to be followed by three years of supervised release. **Amyotte** was ordered to pay restitution jointly and severally in the amount of \$ 6,500 and to pay a \$200 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

Beston pleaded guilty on August 28, 2008, to second-degree murder. Judge Hovland sentenced **Beston** to serve 15 years in federal prison, followed by three years of supervised release. **Beston** was ordered to pay restitution jointly and severally in the amount of \$6,500 and to pay a \$100 special assessment to the Crime Victim's Fund.

On Sunday, November 4, 2007, a party was held at the victim's private residence in East Dunseith Housing on the Turtle Mountain Indian Reservation. The party began in the late afternoon and approximately 10 to 12 guests were drinking, visiting, and listening to music. **Amyotte** and **Beston** were among the guests at the party and were in a dating relationship at the time. The victim, Ms. Baker, was also interested in co-defendant Beston, and witnesses reported that this situation had caused some friction between the two co-defendants and the victim in the past.

In the early evening Baker told party attendees she was going into her bedroom to lie down, and asked people to watch her house while she rested. A short time after Baker walked down the hallway toward her bedroom, **Amyotte** and **Beston** followed. Shortly thereafter, **Amyotte** and **Beston** reemerged from Baker's bedroom and left the residence. Baker was later found dead in the bedroom. An autopsy indicated that the victim had been beaten and that she had suffered a torn vertebral artery and severed brain stem.

United States Attorney Wrigley said, "The poor judgment and the viciousness of these two defendants is absolutely appalling. I'm always asked, 'What's the message of your cases?' Well, don't resort to violence to solve your disputes. And don't blame your mindless irreversible actions on the fact that you chose to go out and get drunk. A woman in the prime of life is dead and the two people who attacked her, they're heading off to federal prison. There is not a party on earth that's worth all of that. My thoughts

Beston and Amyotte Sentenced

Page 3

and my prayers are with Ms. Baker and her loved ones.”

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Bureau of Indian Affairs - Turtle Mountain Agency.

Assistant United States Attorneys David Hagler and Brandi Sasse Russell prosecuted the case.

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