

LADD

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The judge looked at Ladd's personal history of alcohol and chemical abuse, along with her record of violent behavior and lack of willingness to respond to treatment. Ladd has also been diagnosed as suffering from borderline personality disorder and Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, he said.

On the other hand, Anderson also looked at setbacks in Ladd's life, including sexual abuse as a child. He also considered the domestic abuse in her relationships and expert testimony that she could be suffering from Battered Women's Syndrome.

Anderson also took into account that Ladd showed signs of abuse at the hands of Fast Horse.

"At the time of her arrest, Jennifer Ladd had patches of hair missing, and she had bruises on her left arm that signified that Louis Fast Horse did it," he said. "There was no other evidence or record that someone else did it."

Fast Horse also was previously convicted of a beating death, Anderson said. "But I cannot consider Louis Fast Horse's character — just Jennifer Ladd's," he said.

Ladd shows the ability for rehabilitation but needs the proper treatment and additional maturity, Anderson said. Studies have shown most people with borderline personality disorders

grow out of it by their late 40s, he said.

As part of his sentence, Anderson ordered that Ladd receive needed counseling, including any needed medication; no use of alcohol or controlled substances her entire life; and spending each Feb. 14 — the day of the stabbing — in jail until she turns 65. She received credit for 462 days served in jail.

After showing almost no emotion through the entire proceedings, Ladd broke down as she offered her statement. She stood next to the defense table and looked at the Fast Horse family.

"There is a lot of bitterness and rage, and I deserve it," she said. "I fully deserve all your bitterness, rage and hatred. I deserve every ounce of it."

Ladd said she and Fast Horse enjoyed good times, like taking walks and sharing future plans. She still carries his photo.

"What happened that night, I told the truth," Ladd told the Fast Horse family. "You welcomed me into your home, your closeness and togetherness. There are no words to say how so sorry I am. You guys will hate me forever, and I understand that. But I can't bring Louis back."

For the prosecution, Deputy Attorney General Bob Mayer said that even some letters supporting Ladd said prison may be best for her in terms of receiving the care and treatment she needs, and also keeping her safe.

Mayer characterized a lengthy prison sentence as a "compassionate recommendation" by keeping her sober and

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receiving the needed treatment.

"When the defendant was drunk, she had no regard for human life other than her own, and even then she had repeated suicide attempts," he said.

Ladd is still trying to shift the blame on others, Mayer said. The jury did not find credibility for the defense argument of Battered Women's Syndrome and still convicted Ladd of killing Fast Horse, he said.

Defense attorney Tim Whalen of Lake Andes said Ladd and Fast Horse enjoyed a special bond.

"Louis and Jenn were both transients and alcoholics who formed a bond," Whalen said. "Their relationship, they believed they could turn it into something better than they had before."

Ladd doesn't have a prior felony record, has succeeded in school and has the chance at rehabilitation, Whalen said. Ladd suffered from Battered Woman's Syndrome and was practicing self-defense the night of the stabbing, he said.

Even after the stabbing, Ladd sought to assist and comfort Fast Horse, Whalen said.

Whalen pointed to Louis Fast Horse's beating death of Maynard Sun Bear, asking Anderson to give Ladd the same sentence of 46 months with another three years suspended.

Witness statements came from both sides.

Grace Her Many Horses and Ladd's brother were married for 13 years and had three children. Her Many Horses said Ladd formerly interacted with the children on a daily basis and still maintains contact.

"Despite what is going on, they still think a lot of their aunt," Her Many Horses said. "They have nothing bad to say about their aunt. They get along with her."

Brother Marty Zatsick counseled Ladd at her request during her imprisonment. He visited her two to three times a week.

"She wanted to turn her life around in general and get back on her spiritual journey," he said.

Ladd regretted the stabbing and Fast Horse's death, Zatsick said.

"She was very remorseful for what happened and was very sorry," he said. "She loved Louis very much, and she still does."

Ladd has already made much progress even while in jail, Zatsick said. "She looks much better than she did when she was first arrested. She is more at ease. She feels better about herself," he said.

One of Ladd's daughters asked for mercy in sentencing. "If she could take it back, she would. She regrets a lot of what she did," the daughter said.

The daughter defended Ladd's relationship with Fast Horse.

"People make it sound like a crappy relationship. It wasn't. They had a lot of good times together," she said. "People make (Ladd) sound so bad, but she's not. She's trying to do good. She did things to the best of her ability and is trying to take care of things."

On the other side, Fast Horse's family noted that his

death affected 300 relatives on one side of the family alone. They offered tearful and angry testimony.

Merle Fast Horse, Louis' younger brother, said he felt the need to address Ladd.

"I didn't want to come up here, but I have got to tell you — you took my 'bro' and I will never see him again," Merle said, looking at Ladd.

Cecilia Fast Horse, Louis' aunt, said Ladd no longer exists in her heart. "(Ladd) already died the day she stabbed my nephew," she said.

Another Fast Horse family member expressed the range of emotions felt in the courtroom.

"I pray for you every day," she told Ladd. "I pray you have no peace, I pray you have no respect and I pray you die in prison. You will kill again if you have the chance."

ARCHERY

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Olympic archery training center," Cull said. "I think that if we can get our ducks in a row ... we have a great potential to really put Yankton on the map a little bit more and get some great economic development opportunities."

Although Cull admits the details of what it would take to get the facility to that next level at this point are hazy, he has plans under way to get those questions answered. Upgrading the complex would fit within the vision of the Easton Foundation to create programs that could eventually lead to the United States winning all the archery gold medals at the Olympics.

"It's going to be a whole bunch of things falling into place — the facilities, the community, the state. Everybody will have to work together," Cull said.

In the meantime, the NFAA has been putting the finishing touches on improvements to the complex made possible by approximately \$200,000 worth of grants from the Easton Foundation. The 520-by-500-foot Olympic-size outdoor archery field now has a chain link fence around it. It has also been seeded with grass, and an irrigation system has been installed. In addition, a covered shooting line is just about constructed.

"It is one of only a few in the country and is state-of-the-art," Cull said. "It's a nice big shaded area with a 12-foot sidewalk that will be handicap-accessible."

Cameras to capture the motion of arrows during archery training have also been purchased.

"We're very fortunate to have Easton as a partner in this," Cull said. "Their vision of getting people exposed to the sport is very obvious through their giving."

In July, the NFAA hopes to open a KOA campground with approximately 90 pads that is under construction on its property.

City Manager Doug Russell said he couldn't be more pleased to have a national organization like the NFAA in the community and has assisted it as it has developed its complex.

"It continually puts Yankton's name out there," he said. "The more we can build on that and achieve the goals of the Easton Foundation of bringing home a slate of medalists in the Olympics, the better off that sector is in Yankton. It's a very important sector in the community."

The city is interested in finding ways to get more individuals in Yankton for archery training and has actively attempted to recruit archery-related businesses to the area, according to Russell.

"It seems like a viable partnership to have different manufacturers locate here in Yankton, as well as have entrepreneurship opportunities," he said. "Those are the things we're continuing to look at through economic development efforts."

Cull said he is amazed that things have come together in Yankton as quickly as they have. Last year, the facility averaged 43 people a day. The complex

has eight full-time employees, which was more than expected at this point, and the community has been very supportive of the NFAA.

The organization hopefully gives back to the community in the form of visitor revenue and

archery opportunities, Cull said.

"I think one of the big things we were able to show the community with archery was how much money is really spent here," he stated.

The archery tournaments, and the practice many partici-

pants do ahead of them, last anywhere from an extended weekend to an entire week.

"In addition to hotel rooms, those people eat 22,000-25,000 meals in Yankton," Cull said. "It's huge for a small town."



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