

ALERT TOP STORY

Spotsylvania woman gets 17 years in boyfriend's shooting death

Keith Epps

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A woman who killed “the love of my life” during a 2020 argument at her Spotsylvania County home was ordered Friday to serve 17 years in prison.

Paige Lee Morelock, 53, also known as Paige Lee Chewning, fatally shot 58-year-old Gregory Rosnett on Nov. 21 in the 5900 block of Marye Road. She was convicted of second-degree murder and on Friday on Judge Joseph Ellis sentenced her to a total of 40 years with 23 years suspended.

Morelock, who had been with Rosnett off and on for about 20 years, told Detective Tony Horn that Rosnett was the love of her life and that the shooting was accidental. Morelock had no prior felony record.

According to the evidence presented by prosecutor Alex Vakos, Morelock and Rosnett had gotten into an argument the night before his death after she accused him of being with other women.

The argument resumed the next day when Rosnett showed up at her house to get his motorcycle. Morelock claimed she was head-butted during that altercation.



Morelock

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Rosnett was leaving when Morelock fired a shot from a Smith and Wesson six-shot revolver into the air outside. When he turned around following the first shot, a second shot was fired into his abdomen.

Morelock said she was inexperienced with guns and she didn't mean to shoot Rosnett. But Vakos put on evidence showing that the gun she used required a significant amount of force to fire, an indication that it was not fired by accident.

"She got mad, fired a shot into the air, then shot the love of her life," Vakos said. "This was no accident."

Defense attorney Kevin Roach asked Ellis for a sentence toward the lower end of the recommended state sentencing guidelines, which ranged from just under 13 years to just over 21 and a half years.

He said Morelock has told the same story since the day of the shooting and that she didn't intend to kill Rosnett.

"She made a big mistake that cost someone his life," Roach said. "It was extremely reckless behavior that turned into a homicide."

A sobbing Morelock told Ellis Friday that she cries daily as the result of the incident and that she is extremely remorseful.

"It was a horrific tragedy that I will never get over," Morelock said. "I have been haunted by this every day."

Ellis told Morelock that the slaying was not an accident but a choice. He said it wasn't the first time she'd lost her temper, "but it was the worst time."

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