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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

Brookston woman sentenced for murdering her aunt

Lydia Marie Barney received a 25 ½ year prison sentence Thursday for the intentional second-degree murder of her aunt, Waubunoquay Dawn Randall, St. Louis County Attorney Mark Rubin said.

The defendant was sentenced this afternoon by Judge Sally Tarnowski in State District Court in Duluth.

Under questioning by St. Louis County prosecutor Jessica Fralich at the plea hearing in April, Barney, 22, said she knew what she was doing, she wasn't acting in self defense and that she intentionally killed the victim with a kitchen knife.

Ms. Randall's body was found on Oct. 19 at her Stoney Brook Township home, a day after she was last seen with the defendant. An autopsy determined that the 31-year-old woman died as a result of lacerations to her neck which caused a fatal loss of blood.

The case was developed as a result of an investigation by the St. Louis County Sheriff's Office, the Fond du Lac Police Department and the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension.

Ms. Randall's family members do not have any comment and ask that the media respect their request for privacy.

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