

Cheever sentenced to life for 2018 murder

ALBANY — Chad Cheever, 47, was sentenced to life in prison Friday by Linn County Circuit Court Judge Thomas McHill, after being found guilty of murder by the abuse and assault of a 60-year-old Tangent man in 2018.

Cheever was found guilty on Wednesday in Linn County Circuit Court.

Cheever had been living with Don Whisenhunt at the time of the incident. Cheever was Whisenhunt's ex-wife's nephew.

The prosecution said that Cheever had severely beaten Whisenhunt and left him to die outside of his home. An autopsy supported the prosecution's assertions.

Cheever was also sentenced to serve a 6-year sentence for three separate assaults that occurred while he was being held at the Linn County Jail. He will not be eligible for parole for 31 years.

Deputy District Attorney Julia Baker noted, "The entire Whisenhunt family has been incredibly patient as they waited for Justice."

She said many family members were in the courtroom over the last two weeks and had the opportunity to talk about the loss of their father, brother, long-time love and grandfather to grandchildren who will never get the chance to know him.

"They also shared their appreciation for the prosecution, law enforcement and court system and are grateful to receive some closure," Baker said. "We worked closely with detectives at the Linn County Sheriff's Office, who put in countless hours and manpower to provide a thorough and complete investigation. This allowed us to present a comprehensive case at trial



Chad Cheever

and ultimately lead to a unanimous guilty verdict by the jury."

The prosecution showed that Cheever had a history of being involved in assaults and poses a "significant threat" to the safety of the community, Baker said.

Media contact: Alex Paul, Linn County Communications Officer, 541-967-3825 or email apaul@co.linn.or.us.