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**NEWS RELEASE**

**ROSEMOUNT MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO LEAVING THE SCENE  
THAT KILLED AN APPLE VALLEY WOMAN IN 2009**

Dakota County Attorney James Backstrom announced that Eric James Hunter, age 44 of Rosemount, pled guilty today to one count of Leaving the Scene of an Accident Involving a Death (a felony) in connection with leaving the scene after hitting Joan LeVasseur, who was 26 years old of Apple Valley, shortly after 9:00 a.m. on March 6, 2009, at the intersection of Cedar and Street in Apple Valley. LeVasseur later died from her injuries. In October of 2010 a Dakota County Jury heard testimony for approximately five days and deliberated for multiple days before Judge David Knutson declared a hung jury. The Defendant appealed the court's decision on double jeopardy grounds and the Court of Appeals affirmed Judge Knutson's decision. The matter was set for retrial on today's date.

The facts pertaining to this charge are contained in the criminal complaint which can be found at [://services.co.dakota.mn.us/](http://services.co.dakota.mn.us/) .

Judge David Knutson ordered a pre-sentence investigation and set the sentencing date for January 8, 2013 at 9:00 a.m. in Hastings.

Backstrom said that at the time of this accident Hunter was driving without a valid license for having four traffic violations within a year. "Not only did Mr. Hunter fail to stop at the scene of this accident, he failed to notify police of his involvement in this collision even after learning that the person he hit had died from her injuries."

Backstrom expressed his sympathy to the family and friends of Joan LeVasseur for their great loss.

If you have questions, contact James Backstrom at 651-438-4440.