

JEFFERSON: Theodore "Teddy" Evenson Jr. claims his gun accidentally fired when he struck Lucas Heinz in the back to break up a fight, his lawyer told jurors hearing Evenson's murder trial under way here Monday. Heinz, 19, of Hartland, died four hours later in a Milwaukee hospital from loss of blood from the wound. Evenson, 19, of Oconomowoc, is charged with first-degree intentional homicide in the May 3 shooting that took place outside his rural home. The trial, expected to last all week, will focus on conflicting testimony of several who claimed to have witnessed the shooting, separate actions of supporters of both Evenson and the victim. Milwaukee attorney Dennis Coffey, who is defending Evenson, told jurors that Heinz and others had gone to Evenson's because one member of the group wanted to pick a fight with Evenson and that they began fighting with Evenson's younger brother, Michael. He said witnesses saw Teddy Evenson raise his arm and strike Heinz in the back and heard a gunshot. Coffey said expert testimony will show that Heinz had a glancing blow to the back of his head and that the imprint on his back in the area of the contact gunshot wound is that of the gun with its barrel sight at a sideways angle. Assistant Jefferson County District Attorney Michael Schaefer says the evidence will show something different. He said he will show that Heinz and his friends went to the Evenson home because they were told there was a party there. He will show that Heinz was jumped by a group of teenagers, including Michael Evenson, and that Teddy Evenson came running out of the house with his 9 mm pistol drawn and ran up and shot Heinz in the back.

JEFFERSON (AP) - An Ixonia man has been sentenced to 30 years in prison in the shooting death of a 19-year-old man. Theodore Evenson, 19, was convicted of first-degree reckless homicide while armed in August in the shooting death of 19-year-old Lucas Heinz. Jefferson County Circuit Court Judge William Hue issued the sentence Friday in front of a courtroom packed with relatives of Heinz. Heinz, of Hartland, was shot in the back on May 3, during a scuffle in the front yard of Evenson's parents' home. Heinz died later that day at a Milwaukee hospital. Throughout his trial, Evenson maintained the shooting was an accident. Fighting back tears at the sentencing, he apologized to the Heinz family for the crime. "I know' that God forgives me and I ask everyone to accept my apology for this because I'm truly sorry"; he said. Under terms of the sentencing, when Evenson becomes eligible for parole, Evenson must reimburse the Heinz family for medical and funeral expenses.