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District Attorney

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PRESS RELEASE

WOMAN'S BODY FOUND IN CREEK IDENTIFIED

The Chester County District Attorney's Office announced the identity of the woman found tied to a cinder block in a swimming hole on Pigeon Creek in East Coventry Township, Chester County, PA. The body was found on Memorial Day, May 30, 2016.

The woman has been identified as Ryan Stevyn Benjamin, age 24. Her last address was 488 Porters Mill Road, Pottstown, PA. She received her undergraduate degree from Juniata College, with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary and Early Childhood Education. She was a certified teacher and was employed as a pre-kindergarten teacher. Photographs of Ms. Benjamin are attached to this press release.

Ms. Benjamin was identified through unique physical descriptors (distinctive tattoo, rings, physical features), pending formal notification of identification through DNA and dental records that will come from the Chester County Coroner's Office.

Chester County District Attorney Tom Hogan stated, "This is a very active investigation. The victim was an outgoing and sociable young woman, with many friends in the West Chester area. Anybody who had contact with her over the Memorial Day weekend should contact the police immediately."

Hogan added, "The person who dumped Ryan's body in the water knows what they did and knows that the police are closing in. Every moment that this person stays on the run makes it look worse. This individual should come in to authorities now."

This case is being investigated by the Chester County Detectives and the East Coventry Police Department. Anybody with information should contact Chester County Detective Sgt. Tom Goggin at 610-344-6866.

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Approved for release:

Thomas P. Hogan