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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LAUREN L. STINDE, CARBONDALE, SENTENCED FOR FIRST DEGREE MURDER

Michael C. Carr, Jackson County State's Attorney, announced today that Lauren L. Stinde, age 26, of Carbondale, Illinois, was sentenced to thirty (30) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections after pleading guilty to First Degree Murder in Jackson County Circuit Court.

On August 30, 2016, officers from the Carbondale Police Department were called to the scene of a fire in a wooded area located in the 900 Block of East Main Street in Carbondale, Illinois, after firefighters discovered the burned remains of a human being. An extensive investigation led by the Carbondale Police Department and the Illinois State Police Crime Scene Services later identified the remains as being those of Robin L. Stief, age 39, of Salem, Illinois, a person who had been reported as missing.

An extensive investigation ultimately resulted in the arrests of Tiesha D. Anderson, Lauren Stinde, and Robert J. Dennis. All defendants have remained in custody since the arrests.

Lauren Stinde pleaded guilty to First Degree Murder on November 21, 2016, and agreed to cooperate with the investigation. She admitted that she, Anderson, and Dennis together and being legally accountable for the actions of each other, without lawful justification, performed acts which caused the death of Stief. The evidence established that Stief was hit in the head with a hammer, strangled with a belt, and suffocated with a pillow before she died at an apartment located on South Marion in Carbondale. The three placed Stief's body inside a large trash can and wheeled the body from the apartment to a location on East Main Street where it was set on fire to prevent the discovery of her murder.

Stinde was sentenced to thirty (30) years in the Illinois Department of Corrections followed by a three (3) year period of Mandatory Supervised Release. The sentence is to be served at 100% with no possibility of early release.

On July 19, 2019, Anderson pleaded guilty to First-Degree Murder and one count of Concealment of a Homicidal Death on July 19, 2019. Anderson was sentenced to serve a prison term of thirty-five (35) years for First-Degree Murder, followed by a three (3) year term of Mandatory Supervised Release; and a consecutive term of five (5) years for Concealment of a Homicidal Death (a Class 3 Felony), followed by a one (1) year period of Mandatory Supervised Release.

Robert Dennis has pleaded not guilty and awaits jury trial.

The Charge against Dennis is merely a charge and not evidence. Under the law, a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of a jury.

The investigation was conducted by the Carbondale Police Department and the Illinois State Police. Assistant State's Attorney Jayson Clark is handling the prosecution.

*A prosecutor has the responsibility of a minister of justice and not simply that of an advocate. This responsibility carries with it specific obligations to see that the defendant is accorded procedural justice and that guilt is decided upon the basis of sufficient evidence. Except for statements that are necessary to inform the public of the nature and extent of the prosecutor's action and that serve a legitimate law enforcement purpose, by Supreme Court Rule, the State's Attorney is not allowed to make statements about pending cases or investigations which would pose a serious and imminent threat to the fairness of the proceeding. [Rule 3.8 Special Responsibilities of a Prosecutor](#). For a list of certain subjects which have been determined to pose such a threat to the fairness of the proceedings and for a list of subjects which do not, please see [Rule 3.6 Trial Publicity](#). For any press release involving a case which has not yet been tried, please note that: **a defendant is presumed to be innocent of a charge until proved guilty beyond a reasonable doubt to the satisfaction of the jury.***