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Press Release

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Murder-Dismemberment Trial Ends with Maximum Term

(Houston, TX) – The Harris County District Attorney’s Office today obtained the maximum sentence of 99 years in prison and \$10,000 fine against Timothy Wayne Shepherd for the first-degree murder of Tynesha Stewart in March 2007.

Shepherd, 29, testified during the punishment phase of his trial that he choked Stewart, his ex-girlfriend, to death. He said he purchased a jigsaw to dismember her body in his bathtub, and then used two barbecue grills to burn her remains on his patio. Investigators only found fragments of hair, bone and teeth of the victim, a 19-year-old Texas A&M University freshman.

Jurors on Thursday (Oct. 9) returned their guilty verdict in the court of state District Judge Vanessa Velasquez. Testimony had started on Oct. 1.

The case was prosecuted by Harris County Assistant District Attorneys Kebharu Smith and Marie Primm, who had asked for the maximum punishment against the defendant. They told the jury that Shepherd had been a domineering boyfriend who frequently abused Stewart.

“The especially gruesome testimony and facts in this case made it a particularly difficult trial for the jury to endure,” Primm said. “We are thankful for their work and dedication. They arrived at a proper verdict -- justice has been served.”

(End)