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Press Release

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Coloma man charged with Open Murder in Benton Township homicide

Derrick Bailey, 22 of Coloma, has been charged with Open Murder in the death of Nicholas Kling, 37, of Eau Claire. In the early evening hours of May 1, 2017, Bailey, while in the front passenger seat of a stopped vehicle, was confronted by Kling at the intersection of Red Arrow Highway and Benton Center Road in Benton Charter Township. While still in the vehicle, Bailey drew a firearm and shot Kling, who was outside the vehicle. Kling was shot three times in the chest and face causing his death. Bailey was the current boyfriend of the female driver of the vehicle and Kling was her recent ex-boyfriend. Bailey was found at the scene and arrested by Benton Township police. A firearm was recovered at the scene.

In addition to Open Murder, a charge that encompasses 1st Degree and 2nd Degree Murder, both life maximums, Bailey is also charged with Carrying a Concealed Weapon, a 5 year felony, and Felony Firearm, a mandatory 2 year consecutive felony.

At his arraignment today, Bailey's bond was set at \$250,000, cash or surety. A pre-exam conference and preliminary exam hearing were set for May 12 and May 18 respectively each at 8:30 am at the St. Joseph Courthouse.

The case was investigated by the Benton Charter Township Police Department.

The charge is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Press release available at County Web site:

<http://www.berriencounty.org/ProsecutingAttorney/pressreleases>