

KHOU.com staff and Tim Wetzel , KHOU 5:37 PM. EST August 18, 2016



WHARTON COUNTY, TEXAS - More than 25 years after 15-year-old Rosemary Diaz vanished from a tiny town in Wharton County, her family finally has closure.

The Wharton County Sheriff's Office said Thursday DNA tests confirmed that remains found in Matagorda County last November are Diaz.

The teen went missing on Nov. 24, 1990 after finishing her shift at a country food store near her home in Danevang, about 80 miles southwest of Houston. Her car was found outside the store, but Diaz had disappeared without a trace.



Rosemary Diaz went missing on Nov. 24, 1990 after leaving her job at a country food store near her home in Danevang, Texas.

Until now, her family members held out hope that she'd be found alive someday.

"The first reaction for me and the whole family is the hope is taken away," said Irma Diaz, Rosemary's sister. "it is left now with us to grieve and to process it and know that at least she is not suffering, she is in heaven with my father."

Investigators reopened the cold case in 2015 after receiving several tips. Their prime suspect reportedly confessed to family members before his death and they contacted law enforcement.

Equusearch volunteers found the skeletal remains in a shallow grave exactly 25 years to the day after Diaz vanished. They also found a ring matching the one Diaz was wearing.

The property where she was found belongs to the suspect's family and they are cooperating with the investigation.

"It's not clear at this time, who knew exactly what and how much they knew and what role they may or may not play that's why the investigative process will continue," said a Wharton County investigator.

The suspect's name has not been released. He was in his mid-20s when Diaz was abducted and murdered. Investigators say he is not a suspect in any other unsolved murders.

Diaz' family is grateful to finally have answers.

"On behalf of the Diaz family, we just wanted to thank a lot of people who have helped us and prayed with us and given us this closure that we needed so much," Irma Diaz said.

Matagorda County detectives are still investigating the case.