

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
IN THE COURT OF APPEALS

VOLUME II of II

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SC Court of Appeals

Appeal from Dorchester County
Honorable Doyet A. Early, Circuit Court Judge

THE STATE,

RESPONDENT,

V.

EDWARD PRIMO BONILLA,

APPELLANT

APPELLATE CASE NO. 2016-001725

RECORD ON APPEAL

ROBERT M. DUDEK
Chief Appellate Defender

ALAN WILSON
Attorney General

South Carolina Commission on Indigent
Defense
Division of Appellate Defense
PO Box 11589
Columbia, SC 29211-1589
(803) 734-1330

DONALD J. ZELENKA
Deputy Attorney General

MELODY J. BROWN
Senior Assistant Deputy Attorney General

ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANT

SUSANNAH R. COLE
Assistant Attorney General
P.O. Box 11549
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

DAVID M. PASCOE
Solicitor, First Judicial Circuit
140 N. Main St., Suite 102
Summerville, South Carolina 29483

ATTORNEYS FOR RESPONDENT

PAGES 501-636

INDEX

INDEX	i
TRIAL TRANSCRIPT (AUGUST 8-11, 2016)	1
PRE-TRIAL MOTIONS	2
HEARING ON INFORMED CONSENT	
MARK LIENDECKER	
Direct Examination by Mr. Sorenson	7
Cross Examination by Mr. Hilton	13
Examination by the Court	15
Cross Examination by Mr. Murphy	17
EDWARD BONILLA	
Direct Examination by Mr. Hilton	20
Cross Examination by Mr. Sorenson	26
RULING ON INFORMED CONSENT	31
<u>JACKSON V. DENNO HEARING</u>	
DAVID HARRIS	
Direct Examination by Mr. Sorenson	34
Cross Examination by Mr. Hilton	38
ANDY DAVID MARTIN	
Direct Examination by Mr. Sorenson	40
Cross Examination by Mr. Hilton	51
PRE-TRIAL MOTIONS	58
RULING ON PRE-TRIAL MOTIONS	82
OPENING STATEMENT BY MR. TEMPLETON	85
OPENING STATEMENT BY MR. HILTON	88

TESTIMONY

BRANDY CHANCE

Direct Examination by Mr. Sorenson	93
Cross Examination by Mr. Hilton	114

DEPUTY KEITH GALSTAR

Direct Examination by Mr. Templeton	116
---	-----

DETECTIVE DAVID HARRIS

Direct Examination by Mr. Templeton	120
Cross Examination by Mr. Hilton	124

LINDSAY DIAZ

Direct Examination by Mr. Sorenson	125
Cross Examination by Mr. Hilton	137

JOHN ROWLAND

Direct Examination by Mr. Templeton	142
---	-----

BRETT CORDER

Direct Examination by Mr. Templeton	147
Cross Examination by Mr. Hilton	150

ROBERT CAUBLE

Direct Examination by Mr. Sorenson	150
Cross Examination by Mr. Hilton	175

BLAINE LOCKLAIR

Direct Examination by Mr. Templeton	179
---	-----

JASMINE TELL

Direct Examination by Mr. Templeton	186
Cross Examination by Mr. Hilton	190

INVESTIGATOR JEFF SCOTT

Direct Examination by Mr. Sorenson	196
Cross Examination by Mr. Hilton	276

BONNIE LAIDLAW

Direct Examination by Mr. Templeton	294
---	-----

ALISON DURR

Direct Examination by Mr. Sorenson	297
--	-----

DETECTIVE ADAM SMITH	
Direct Examination by Mr. Templeton	301
Cross Examination by Mr. Hilton	318
DETECTIVE BRADLEY MULLIS	
Direct Examination by Mr. Sorenson	319
Voir Dire Examination by Mr. Hilton.....	322
Direct Examination by Mr. Sorenson Continued.....	325
Cross Examination by Mr. Hilton	343
PAUL MEEH	
Direct Examination by Mr. Sorenson	346
Cross Examination by Mr. Hilton	363
DR. NICHOLAS BATALIS	
Direct Examination by Mr. Sorenson	367
Cross Examination by Mr. Hilton	388
DETECTIVE ANDY MARTIN	
Direct Examination by Mr. Sorenson	394
Cross Examination by Mr. Hilton	426
ANTHONY NAVARRO	
Direct Examination by Mr. Hilton	433
Cross Examination by Mr. Sorenson	443
Redirect Examination by Mr. Hilton	455
EDWARD BONILLA	
Direct Examination by Mr. Hilton	457
Cross Examination by Mr. Sorenson	503
Redirect Examination by Mr. Hilton	554
CLOSING ARGUMENT BY MR. TEMPLETON	555
CLOSING ARGUMENT BY MR. HILTON.....	557
CLOSING ARGUMENT BY MR. SORENSON.....	578
CHARGE ON THE LAW	608
VERDICT	617
SENTENCING	620
INDICTMENT	621

DEFENDANT’S EXHIBIT NO. 1 (AFFIDAVIT)	623
DEFENDANT’S EXHIBIT NO. 2 (CONSENT ORDER).....	628
DEFENDANT’S EXHIBIT NO. 3 (SEARCH WARRANT).....	629
CERTIFICATE OF COUNSEL	636

1 me he was still at the shop.

2 Q. Okay. So he had already made it back to the shop at
3 the point you contacted him?

4 A. I mean, from my knowledge, I thought he was still
5 there. But from his testimony, he said he was on Cosgrove
6 exit or wherever and turned back around to the shop.

7 Q. All right. And when you left your phone in the car,
8 was that from April 4th or was -- when did you leave your
9 phone -- I say the car -- the van? The work van.

10 A. That was that day of work because I drove that van to
11 work. And normally when I go to work, I work by myself.
12 And so, I just forgot my phone in there.

13 Q. Okay. And Detective Martin asked you how long you had
14 worked for Mr. Cauble and you lied to him there too, right?

15 A. I did lie to him; yes, sir.

16 Q. Why?

17 A. Again, there's no logic behind it. Just I knew Rob was
18 going to tell him the truth, but I still ended up lying.

19 Q. Now around -- just one moment. On May 8th, by May 8th,
20 you had already been arrested at the time, correct?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. And in fact, you were charged with the obstruction and
23 the murder, correct?

24 A. Yeah, by May 8th -- I believe by May 8th I was charged
25 with murder; yes, sir.

1 Q. All right. And that was the day that you ended up
2 disclosing the location of the body through Mr. Leiendecker,
3 correct?

4 A. Yes, sir; it is.

5 Q. Edward, at any point in time, did you have any
6 intention to harm Ms. Ashley Pegram that night?

7 A. No, sir. It never entered my mind to harm someone.
8 Her death was an accident. It was an accident that was
9 influenced by the way that she was acting.

10 Q. And hindsight is 20/20?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 MR. HILTON: Edward, please answer any questions that
13 Mr. Sorenson may have for you.

14 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

15 THE COURT: Y'all okay? Anyone need a bathroom break?
16 We're going to probably go another -- a little while.

17 MR. HILTON: I will say, I would like to take one.
18 Just a bathroom break; five minutes.

19 THE COURT: All right. Let's take a five. Everyone
20 else remain seated. Don't discuss the case and don't
21 deliberate.

22 (The jury exits the courtroom at 4:16 a.m.)

23 THE COURT: All right. We'll take a five-minute quick
24 bathroom break.

25 (A brief recess was taken at 4:16 p.m. The proceedings

1 resumed at 4:24 p.m.)

2 THE COURT: Anything for the record be we start back?
3 State? Defense?

4 AST. SOL. SORENSON: No, sir.

5 MR. HILTON: Nothing, Your Honor.

6 (The jury enters the courtroom at 4:24 p.m..)

7 AST. SOL. SORENSON: Thank you. May it please the
8 Court, Your Honor?

9 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

10 CROSS EXAMINATION

11 BY AST. SOL. SORENSON:

12 Q. Mr. Bonilla, just so we're clear, kind of the gist I
13 got out of your testimony you pretty much came out and said
14 this at the very end, this young lady, State's 2 and 3,
15 that's the lady that with you that night. Is that correct?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. Is your testimony basically her death, it's her fault.
18 Is that correct? Does that kind of sum up your testimony?

19 A. I wouldn't say it was entirely her fault; no, sir.

20 Q. She wasn't being combative with you? Wasn't yelling at
21 you? Wasn't trying to hit you? Wasn't trying to kick you
22 car? Based on your testimony, she would still be alive. Is
23 that correct?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. Let's talk a little bit about this story you just told

1 the jury here this afternoon if we could. First thing I
2 want to talk about is I want to talk a little bit about your
3 girlfriend back then, Jasmine. What's Jasmine's last name?

4 A. Wicevic (ph).

5 Q. And how long had the two of y'all been together?

6 A. Since the previous November.

7 Q. And y'all pretty much talked every day on the phone:
8 text messages, phone calls. Is that correct?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. All right. Was she living with you back in April of
11 2015?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Okay., And that was over at that apartment in Hanahan
14 behind Trident Tech?

15 A. Yes, sir; off of Maybelline.

16 Q. Okay. Who lived there the? You, your mother, and her?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. The three of y'all?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. Okay. And did Jasmine have a vehicle?

21 A. No, sir.

22 Q. Now the night of April the 3rd, where was she?

23 A. She said she was with her friend, Doug.

24 THE COURT: Her friend who?

25 THE WITNESS: Doug.

1 Q. D-o-u-g, Doug?

2 A. I believe so.

3 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this: During that time, Jasmine
4 was having some back and shoulder issues, right?

5 A. She said she did; yes, sir.

6 Q. Well, I mean, you lived with her.

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Is that correct?

9 A. Yeah.

10 Q. Okay. Was she on medication for her back and shoulder
11 issues?

12 A. If she was, I did not know.

13 Q. Don't know whether she was on a muscle relaxer or
14 anything like that for that back and shoulder issues?

15 A. No, sir. She never took any in front of me.

16 Q. But you were aware of her back and shoulder issues
17 because she texted you about it. Is that correct?

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. When you had this jury that the two of you, even though
20 while you were boyfriend/girlfriend, you had an
21 relationship. Is that correct?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. Okay. In fact, you in looking through those text
24 messages and the phone records we have, you were contacting
25 a lot of women back then. Is that correct?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Various online sites?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. Okay. A lot of women who were basically charging for
5 their company with you. Is that correct?

6 A. Some of them. Whenever you -- sometimes when you text
7 somebody or send them a message, they'll send back an offer
8 for money; yes, sir.

9 Q. Okay. All right. And it's your testimony that you had
10 first started corresponding with Ashley on an app sometime
11 several weeks up to a month before this night. Is that
12 correct?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. All right. But the night of April the 3rd, that was
15 the first night you actually saw her, though. Is that
16 correct?

17 A. Yes, sir; it was.

18 Q. And you end up going to pick her up around nine o'clock
19 that night. Is that correct? Somewhere in that vicinity.

20 A. Yes, sir; correct.

21 Q. And it's your mom's Hyundai Sonata. Is that correct?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. All right. And was your home at that point in time?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. Okay. And your work van, because you had driven that

1 Ford-work van, so that work van then is at the apartment on
2 Maybelline. Is that correct?

3 A. Yes, sir; it is.

4 Q. Okay. And Jasmine as far as you know is off with some
5 friend Doug?

6 A. With Doug; yes, sir. That's what she told me the next
7 day.

8 Q. Okay. And it was y'all's understanding at that point
9 in time that that night you were going to go out and then
10 you had to get up and go to work the next morning. Is that
11 correct?

12 A. I was supposed to go; yes, sir.

13 Q. And what time would you have gotten up to go to work
14 Saturday morning?

15 A. Well, since I had to be there at eight, and it's
16 Saturday, there's no traffic, so I would've got up around
17 seven and left around maybe 7:45.

18 Q. Okay. And you would've driven obviously your work van
19 at that point in time. Is that correct?

20 A. I would have; yes, sir.

21 Q. Okay. And it's your testimony that your mom ended up
22 renting this Chevy Cruz that Saturday morning. Is that
23 correct?

24 A. I'm not sure if it was the morning or not, but she did
25 have that Cruz.

1 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this while I'm thinking about
2 this: In State's Exhibit 105, who's driving that when you
3 get picked up dropping the van off?

4 A. That would've been my mother.

5 Q. All right. I'm going to get back to that in a few
6 minutes.

7 A. All right.

8 Q. And the van, and Mr. Hilton had asked you, that Ford
9 van, you said it was not uncommon for you to take that home.
10 Is that correct?

11 A. No, sir; it was not.

12 Q. Okay. But the fact of the matter is that after this
13 incident happened on the early morning hours of April 4th,
14 2015, you brought the van back to work that night, that
15 Saturday night, even though you didn't work. Is that
16 correct?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. The fact of the matter is you never took that van home
19 again after that, did you?

20 A. No, sir. Because the Monday he came back with that GMC
21 van that's in the other pictures. He had that out getting
22 lettered. And when he came back, I switched over to that
23 van.

24 Q. Okay. That fact of the matter is you never took any
25 vans home from work after April the 4 of 2015. Is that

1 correct?

2 A. No. I believe I drove the Chevy home.

3 Q. Of course, part of that back then is you didn't want
4 law enforcement to find out where you were working. Is that
5 correct?

6 A. Yes, sir; it was.

7 Q. All right. Let's talk about -- so you get over to your
8 brother's house. And I got a little confused here because
9 there is text messages from your brother where he's telling
10 you that he's got marijuana for you.

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Is that correct? Okay. Now you said you didn't some
13 any marijuana at your brother's house, though. Is that
14 correct?

15 A. No. I don't believe I did say that.

16 Q. Okay. I may have misunderstood that, but I ---

17 A. I did say that I did not smoke any on the way there. I
18 do remember saying that.

19 Q. Okay. So you smoked marijuana at your brother's house?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Okay. And then your testimony is that you left your
22 brother's house around midnight or thereabouts or a little
23 before, and went back to your house, your apartment.

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. To get rid of the marijuana.

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Is that correct?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. Before driving Ms. Pegram back to her home?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. All right. And how far is it from your brother's house
7 to your apartment?

8 A. I don't know the exact mileage, but probably about a
9 20-minute drive.

10 Q. Okay. So you're willing to go drive 20 minutes to get
11 rid of the marijuana bit not to go take her home first?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Okay. And that was the only reason you were, basically
14 -- your testimony is you went back by your house is to get
15 rid of that marijuana at that point in time, right?

16 A. Yes, sir; it was.

17 Q. Okay. And Ms. Pegram at that point in time, when you
18 left your brother's house, how was she acting?

19 A. At first, not too bad. I mean, she wasn't going into
20 her little rants then about the phone or the lighter or
21 anything like that; no, sir.

22 Q. So at that point in time -- and she's been drinking.
23 Is that correct?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. And it's your testimony that she had three to four

1 beers from the time you picked her up until you got to your
2 brother's house?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. And then how much did she have at your brother's house?

5 A. I wasn't paying attention. We put it in the fridge and
6 just told her to go, at her own will, to go pick it up or
7 grab another one.

8 Q. And did she have a beer with her when y'all left?

9 A. She did. That was the only way I could actually get
10 her to get into the car by allowing her to take the beer
11 with her.

12 Q. And yet again, and I may have misunderstood this
13 earlier, but I thought I heard you say that you had went
14 back to your apartment and then smoked some marijuana with
15 her on the way back to your apartment.

16 A. We did.

17 Q. Okay. And then later on you testified that she was
18 asking for a lighter and you said you didn't want to smoke
19 in your mom's car.

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Okay. Well, when you were driving from your brother's
22 to your apartment and you were smoking, whose car were you
23 in?

24 A. My mother's.

25 Q. Okay. So it was okay then to smoke in your mom's car

1 but not 30 minutes later?

2 A. No, sir.

3 Q. That's the part where I thought I misunderstood that.

4 But, obviously, I didn't. All right. And you got this
5 marijuana at your brother's from who?

6 A. It was a random person.

7 THE COURT: A random person?

8 THE WITNESS: Well, it's somebody that we know.

9 THE COURT: Don't you have a name?

10 THE WITNESS: I mean, do I really have to disclose
11 their name?

12 THE COURT: You don't have to.

13 THE WITNESS: I'm asking you, sir, do I have to?

14 THE COURT: That's up to you.

15 THE WITNESS: I choose not to disclose their name, sir.

16 Q. Okay. So you got marijuana from a random person?

17 A. No. It was somebody I knew.

18 THE COURT: What was the answer?

19 THE WITNESS: No. It was someone I knew.

20 THE COURT: But you don't want to tell us who it is?

21 THE WITNESS: Yes, sir.

22 AST. SOL. SORENSON: I'm going to ask the Court to
23 instruct him to answer that question, Your Honor.

24 A. Well, I mean, that person's name, he goes by Trend.

25 THE COURT: That's why I didn't instruct him so --

Cross Examination of Edward Bonilla by Ast. Sol. Sorenson

1 what's her name?

2 THE WITNESS: His name is Trend.

3 THE COURT: Trend?

4 THE WITNESS: Yeah, like trendy.

5 Q. Trendy. Okay.

6 A. Yes, sir. I mean, that's the name he goes by. I don't
7 know his real name.

8 Q. Okay. All right. That's fine. I'll move on. And it's
9 your testimony then -- so y'all stop by -- you go by your
10 apartment. And then from there, you leave, and, I guess,
11 get back on the interstate at Ashley Phosphate Road on I-26?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. And head down and Ms. Pegram has to use the restroom.
14 Is that correct?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. And then y'all stop and there's a Sunoco at the College
17 Park exit.

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. And that's, what, an exit or so down from Ashley
20 Phosphate?

21 A. Yes, sir; it is.

22 Q. And the jury seen the video. And that is you driving
23 the vehicle, right? That Sonata that pulls in.

24 A. That is me; yes, sir.

25 Q. Nobody else in that vehicle with you?

1 A. No. It's just me and Ashley.

2 Q. All right. And at that point in time, has she gotten
3 out of control with you in the car when she goes into the
4 Sunoco?

5 A. Just the weird stuff she's saying.

6 Q. Is she yelling at you?

7 A. Not at that point; no, sir.

8 Q. And it's your testimony that -- and the jury got to see
9 the -- I mean, she's in there for quite some time. Is that
10 correct?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. And she comes back out, gets back in the vehicle, and
13 you drive off at that point in time. Is that correct?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. All right. And you've seen the video. It said about
16 12:12 in the morning.

17 A. That's the approximate time on there.

18 Q. Any reason to dispute that was the time that you were
19 in the vicinity of that Sunoco?

20 A. At the time, I did not know the time. But since it's
21 on the computer stamp then obviously that was the time.

22 Q. Okay. And at the point in time, your testimony then
23 that you drive, come back in to the Summerville exit, so I
24 guess exit 199, and drive in to and cut over to Highway 78.
25 Is that correct?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Is that way you came when you came to pick her up
3 initially?

4 A. It is. Because she didn't give me the actual address
5 until I hit Highway 78.

6 Q. And you had put her address in your GPS. Is that
7 correct?

8 A. Yes, sir. It's in the GPS. You guys took a picture of
9 it.

10 Q. Still in there now, right? And you were the one that
11 put it in there. That's how you got to her house the first
12 time. Is that correct?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. So there was nothing that prevented you from looking
15 back in your phone when you were trying to find her house
16 again. It is that correct?

17 A. Like I said last time, you know, with the events that
18 were happening, my mind just wasn't thinking clearly about
19 that part of it.

20 Q. Okay. And when you were communicating with her in
21 State's Exhibit No. 4 -- you've had a chance to review
22 these, right? With your lawyer.

23 A. I've seen them when they were on the

24 Q. Seen them in court also here?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. And that is, that E-Money Bon, that's you, right?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. That's your ID. And that's on the Kik app. Is that
4 correct?

5 A. Yes, sir. That is the Kik app.

6 Q. Okay. And just so I understand this and the jury
7 understands it, that app on your phone allows you to message
8 with people assuming they have a Kik ID also. Is that
9 correct?

10 A. Yeah. With that one, you can't just -- it's not like
11 Meet where you randomly have pictures that you can pick
12 from. You actually need to know the person's name to
13 contact them.

14 Q. Okay. And obviously some point in time she had given
15 you her name during your initial conversations?

16 A. Yes, sir. She gave it to me over Meet.com.

17 Q. Okay. And the thing about the Kik app is that once
18 your -- I mean, if you're active on it going back and forth
19 with somebody, once you close that app up, it doesn't save
20 any of those messages. Is that correct? They're not saved
21 on your phone.

22 A. I believe it does save them.

23 Q. You think that it does?

24 A. It believe so. I believe you have to physically erase
25 them.

1 Q. Okay. It's your testimony -- All right.. Let's kind of
2 back up now. So you're leaving, you're pulling out of
3 Sunoco. And I think it's your testimony that she is, that
4 Ashley, is just saying some weird things at that point in
5 time?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Like what?

8 A. Like she's asking for her mom's phone that I do not
9 have. She's yelling at me for taking it. She's accusing me
10 of stealing it is really what she was doing. The thing
11 about the lighter, she's, you know, give me a lighter,
12 you're not a man, give me a lighter, blah, blah, blah. That
13 type of stuff.

14 Q. Okay. In your testimony, the reason you wouldn't give
15 her a lighter at that point in time is now you don't want to
16 smoke in your mom's car?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. And this is happening when you're going down the
19 interstate or once you get into Summerville or . . .

20 A. This is down the interstate and getting towards
21 Summerville.

22 Q. Okay. Did she ever put her hands on you during all
23 this or is she just kind of yelling at you?

24 A. Kind of yelling. She never put her hands on me in the
25 car; no, sir.

1 Q. Okay. And so y'all pull in. And I think you said that
2 you drive around, you ask her where she lives. Is she not
3 able to tell you or . . .

4 A. I mean, she's telling me supposedly where she lives.
5 And then I'm having -- I'm finding out later after I go down
6 the road that it's not the place to go. She's telling me
7 I'm going the wrong way.

8 Q. It's your testimony that you drove around for 30 or 40
9 minutes with that going on?

10 A. That's, you know, just a guesstimation. I'm not
11 100 percent sure on the time.

12 Q. Okay. And then ultimately you end up over on Winter
13 Road or Winter Drive, and that's near a mobile home park.
14 Is that correct?

15 A. We had passed the mobile home park already. It's --
16 the mobile home park is located.

17 Q. Okay. And that's where she indicates to you that she
18 needs to use the restroom again?

19 A. That is.

20 Q. And during this 30 to 40 minutes, I mean, you at no
21 point in time thought, you know, heck, she gave me her
22 address, I've gotten to this place once before. Never
23 occurs to you?

24 A. It just never entered my mind, sir.

25 Q. All right. And it's your testimony that when you pull

1 up, she's get out of your car to us the restroom, right?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. And you're thinking to yourself, I mean, what did I put
4 myself or what did I get myself into. That's what your
5 testimony was at that point in time.

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. And you make a decision at that point in time to leave
8 her. Is that correct?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. And it's your testimony -- so she had shut the door.
11 And do you know where she went?

12 A. No. It was dark. She was wearing black. I wasn't
13 watching her get out of the car.

14 Q. And that's how she was dressed, correct? I mean it's a
15 long-sleeved, kind of, black shirt and jeans on with
16 flip-flops.

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. So you put the vehicle -- now, explain to me exactly --
19 now, where is it that you're pulled? I mean, you were
20 saying something about, you know, there being a private
21 drive sign or something?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Where are you? Are you on the side of the road? In
24 the driveway? In a road?

25 A. It had to have been a private driveway. It was kind of

1 like a dirt road or so.

2 Q. Okay. So you pull into a dirt road. And you, at this
3 point in time, you don't know where you were, right?

4 A. Not exactly; no, sir. I know that if, you know, I pull
5 out the road and take a right when I get out, because I'm
6 reversing, or take a left, it would take me back to 78.

7 Q. All right. So she gets out. So you are pulled into
8 this private drive?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. And she gets out, obviously, the passenger side of the
11 vehicle?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Closes the door. And at that point in time, is your
14 testimony that you back up?

15 A. It is.

16 Q. Okay. How far do you back up?

17 A. It had to be 10 feet or so.

18 Q. Close as we are right now?

19 A. Yes. I mean, I don't -- it's dark. Probably about
20 10 feet or so.

21 Q. Okay. Do you gun the engine when you back up?

22 A. No. Like normally, like you back out of a driveway.
23 Just, you know, put it in reverse, let the car go, you know.

24 Q. Your testimony is at that point in time, you felt a
25 bump?

1 A. I did feel a bump; yes, sir.

2 Q. Okay. And you get out and realize at that point in
3 time, your testimony was, that you hit Ashley with the car.

4 A. Yes. Because when I got out she was kind of laying on
5 the ground when I got out there.

6 Q. And it's your testimony that you hit her basically
7 right in the center of the back of a car?

8 A. I don't know exactly where I hit her was back of the
9 car; no, sir. I didn't say anything.

10 Q. Okay. I thought you had pointed that out to
11 Mr. Hilton. You just hit her with the back of the car,
12 though?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. And she is on the ground at that point in time?

15 A. She is. When I go around to the back of the car to see
16 what it was or who, you know, I didn't know at the time that
17 I hit her when I bumped. You know what I mean? Because
18 like I said, it was dirt road, you know. I'm using the
19 mirrors to back up because you got woods here and woods
20 here, you know. I didn't want to run into the woods.

21 Q. And the bump, I mean, was it like you just knocked into
22 something or that you ran over something?

23 A. I didn't feel, you know -- because when you bump into
24 something, you generally bump something. When you run over
25 something you can feel the car.

1 Q. So this is just a bump?

2 A. (Nonverbal response.)

3 Q. Okay. When you get out and she is on the ground behind
4 the car when you get out?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. And at that point in time, your testimony is that she
7 gets up; she's angry, yelling, swatting at you, kicking the
8 car.

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. And that's all at the back of the car?

11 A. It starts off at the back of the car; yes, sir.

12 Q. And then you end up coming up behind her and putting --
13 attempting to restrain her?

14 A. Yes, sir. She's at the passenger side of the car. I
15 tried to walk away.

16 THE COURT: This is what?

17 THE WITNESS: This is at the passenger side of the car.
18 I tried to walk away.

19 Q. So she is around the passenger side of the vehicle and
20 you're pursuing her at this point time or how ---

21 A. She's pursuing me like I said last time. But this was
22 at the back of the vehicle. I go back there and I realize
23 that she's back there. And she gets up, starts swatting at
24 me, cussing at me. So I try to get away. I wouldn't say
25 I'm running, you know. I'm just walking away. And she

1 pursues me to the passenger side.

2 Q. Okay. And you end up grabbing her. And I couldn't see
3 some of this the way Mr. Hilton was standing, but you grab
4 her from behind to restrain her?

5 A. Kind of like a bear hug; yes, sir.

6 Q. Bear hug from on behind. And you were doing something
7 with your hand that you said you did with her and I couldn't
8 see what that was.

9 A. To be honest, it's kind of foggy on what I did with my
10 hands. I don't know if I went over her mouth or if I did,
11 you know, like that or anything like that.

12 THE COURT: You're gesturing. Did like what? Tell me
13 what you were doing.

14 A. You know, my hand over the mouth or kind of, I guess
15 you could say a choke hold.

16 Q. So you don't know what you did. One or the other?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. Was she screaming at that point in time?

19 A. Not really, no. Not at all. She's yelling.

20 Q. She's yelling. And that was part of -- when she gets
21 up off of the ground, she's yelling at you at that point in
22 time. Is that correct?

23 A. She's yelling at me the whole time.

24 Q. Nobody ever comes out of any houses around there?

25 A. No. Whenever me and Mr. Hilton looked at through

1 Google maps, it seems like the driveway goes pretty far
2 until you actually reach a private residence.

3 Q. Is your testimony that she ends up eventually just
4 stops moving. Is that right? And she's trying to headbutt
5 you during some of this also?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Okay. And did she end up headbutting you at all?

8 A. No. I'm moving my head away from her -- to do that.

9 Q. Okay. So the back of her head never strikes your nose,
10 your eye, your chin, your forehead, or anything like that?

11 A. If it did, I didn't feel it.

12 Q. You didn't suffer any injury as a result of this, did
13 you?

14 A. No, sir.

15 Q. At that point in time, I believe the way you said it,
16 she basically goes limp and falls to the ground. Is that
17 correct?

18 A. When she stops, you know, fighting me or whatever,
19 that's when I let go and that's when she fall to the ground.

20 Q. And it's your testimony that she died in your arms
21 while you were restraining her. Is that correct?

22 A. That's the only way I can put it, sir. Because I' not,
23 you know . . .

24 Q. And you don't -- at that point in time, obviously, you
25 don't call 911?

1 A. No.

2 Q. Don't call for any assistance whatsoever. Is that
3 correct?

4 A. No, sir. I know that was the wrong decision.

5 Q. And you end up putting her at that point in time in the
6 truck of that Sonata. Is that correct?

7 A. I kind of sat in the car for a little bit.

8 Q. And tell me when -- you had said something about you
9 notice her head was bleeding.

10 A. Uh-huh.

11 Q. When did you notice her head was bleeding?

12 A. I wasn't 100 percent sure if it was her head. But the
13 way that she was -- I guess the way she fell down, there was
14 a streak going down her shirt of blood. And noticed the
15 blood when I was on I-26 driving back toward Rivers Avenue.

16 Q. So when you put her in the trunk of your mom's car, you
17 did not notice any blood on her at that point in time?

18 A. No, sir.

19 Q. Okay. You noticed blood on your shirt that's not your
20 blood. Is that correct?

21 A. Yes, sir.

22 Q. Okay. When you're driving down I-26? Is that
23 accurate?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. Now, did you wrap her in anything when you put her in

1 the trunk of your mom's car?

2 A. No, sir; not at all.

3 Q. And you did not notice any injuries to her other than
4 the fact that she's lifeless. I mean, no physical injuries
5 that you noticed. Is that correct?

6 A. I did not notice any. It's dark. I couldn't see.

7 Q. And it's your testimony from what I've heard through
8 all of this, that you deny ever striking her. Is that
9 correct?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. You never punched her?

12 A. No, sir.

13 Q. Never hit her with any items?

14 A. No, sir; not at all.

15 Q. Never hit her, take her head and hit it on any items?

16 A. No, sir.

17 Q. Okay. And you also deny that she ever, in her attempts
18 to headbutt you, ever struck you that you recall. Is that
19 correct?

20 A. Not that I recall.

21 Q. It's your testimony at that point in time you left with
22 her in the trunk of the car and started heading back towards
23 your apartment. Is that correct? In North Charleston.

24 A. Yes, sir; it is.

25 Q. That's when you see the blood and you throw the shirt

1 out of the window.

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. And at that point in time, you end up on a frontage
4 road somewhere off of the interstate?

5 A. During my travels, I did end up on, I believe now that
6 it was Rad (ph) Road.

7 Q. Okay. All right. And that's where you get out and you
8 take Ms. Pegram out of your mom's trunk of your car.

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Is that correct? And you check her at that point in
11 time to see if she had any injuries on her?

12 A. No, sir. I did not check her.

13 Q. Did you see whether she was bleeding anywhere at that
14 point in time that you noticed?

15 A. I did not notice.

16 Q. And did you notice any blood on your mom's trunk?

17 A. No. It was dark.

18 Q. And you got her into the trunk by yourself? Got her
19 out of the trunk by yourself?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. And she is clothed at that point in time?

22 A. She is; yes, sir.

23 Q. Clothed just like she is in State's Exhibit No. 3. Is
24 that correct?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. And you end up leaving her, I mean, right on the side
2 of the road?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. Okay. And then you end up -- did you go back to your
5 house, your apartment, at that point in time?

6 A. I did.

7 Q. Okay. How long did you stay at your apartment?

8 A. I don't know the approximate time, sir.

9 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this: You end up sending a
10 message to her phone at 3:29 in the morning, "Hello, you
11 still awake? Just making sure you made it home. Sorry I
12 left at the gas station but you were too drunk to handle."
13 You remember sending that, right?

14 A. I do, sir.

15 Q. Okay. Where were you when you sent that message?

16 A. I'm not 100 percent sure.

17 Q. Of course, during the process of all of this, I mean,
18 did you realize at some point in time that you couldn't find
19 her cell phone?

20 A. I mean, she never had one with her from what I could
21 tell.

22 Q. I thought you said she was asking you about taking her
23 mom's cell phone.

24 A. Yeah, she did.

25 Q. You never saw her with a cell phone?

1 A. No, sir.

2 Q. Okay. Let me ask you this: After you killed her, did
3 you look to make sure that her cell phone wasn't around
4 somewhere?

5 A. After she expired, no, I did not look for her phone.

6 Q. And at some point in time -- so that was at 3:50 --
7 3:29 in the morning you send that message there. And I
8 believe your testimony that was -- basically, you're
9 covering your tracks at that point in time, right?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. So that's -- I mean, you're already thinking that
12 through at 3:29 in the morning?

13 A. I mean, just at that moment; yes, sir.

14 THE COURT: Speak up for me, please.

15 A. I said at that moment; yes, sir.

16 Q. Okay. And then you sen a text to your boss also. I
17 mean, not too long after that, around four, four something
18 in the morning?

19 A. I think it was six or so.

20 Q. 4:53 in the morning, your text to Rob Cauble, "Hey,
21 it's Edward. I'm not going to make it to work today. I'm
22 not feeling well at all. I've been up most of the night
23 throwing up." It's 4:53 in the morning. Is that correct?

24 A. If that's what is says, that's what it says.

25 Q. Where were you when you sent that text to the boss?

1 A. Not 100 percent sure, sir. I probably was driving
2 around.

3 Q. Okay.

4 THE COURT: Please speak up.

5 A. I said I was probably driving around.

6 Q. And you're driving around and ultimately you end up
7 going to pick up her body. Is that correct?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Okay. And you take -- you said you just start driving.
10 And ultimately end up down in ---

11 A. It's Harleyville.

12 Q. Down in Harleyville; yes, sir. Were you familiar with
13 that area beforehand?

14 A. No, sir.

15 Q. Ever been down there that you're aware of beforehand?

16 A. No.

17 Q. And you recall seeing your van, that work van, on that
18 Trident video at 6:12 in the morning going, basically, away
19 from your apartment towards Rivers Avenue. Is that correct?

20 A. I did see the video; yes, sir.

21 Q. Okay. And at that point in time, where you going to
22 pick her up or had you already done that?

23 A. Well, I mean, probably on the way to go pick her up.

24 Q. And then you heard the testimony that ultimately your
25 phone is down in the Harleyville area from about 6:42 in the

1 morning to about 7:12 in the morning. You heard that
2 testimony?

3 A. I did.

4 Q. Is that accurate to the best of your knowledge?

5 A. If that's where they pinged it at, that's where they
6 pinged it at.

7 Q. Okay. All right. Let me ask you now, so up until --
8 so it's 6:12 in the morning. So you were going to pick her
9 up. Had you talked with anybody that night about what had
10 happened or about anything at all that night?

11 A. No.

12 Q. Okay. When you went back to apartment, was your mother
13 there?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Did you wake her up and talk to her at all about what
16 had happened?

17 A. No, sir.

18 Q. Okay. What about your girlfriend, Jasmine? Did you
19 talk to your girlfriend Jasmine at any time during those
20 early morning hours before you went and buried Ashley
21 Pegram's body?

22 A. No, sir.

23 Q. Okay. Well, how come your phone records show a text
24 from her at -- a text from Jasmine's phone at 5:48 to you
25 saying call me. And then a phone call from you to her at

1 5:48 in the morning that's five minutes long.

2 A. I don't recall that phone call.

3 Q. Okay. So you don't recall talking to her for over five
4 minutes that morning when you're driving around supposedly
5 trying to clear your head and figure out what you gotten
6 yourself into?

7 A. Yes, sir. Like I say, I don't recall that phone call.

8 Q. Obviously, if you don't recall it, you don't have any
9 idea what you talked to her about?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Didn't tell her what had happened?

12 A. No, sir. I did not disclose that to anybody. I
13 couldn't talk to somebody about that.

14 Q. Now you go back and pick her up. And she is on the
15 side of the road at this point in time basically just
16 clothed and, I mean, just not breathing at that point in
17 time. Is a correct? I mean, she's fully clothed? Glasses
18 on?

19 A. I'm not sure. Not the glasses. I mean, I'm pretty
20 sure they probably were. Not sure though.

21 Q. Okay. Did you ever do anything with her glasses?

22 A. No.

23 Q. Did they ever fall off where you had to pick them up
24 and make sure, you know, you brought them with you?

25 A. No, sir.

1 Q. So they were on her as far as you knew basically when
2 you left her on the side -- on that frontage road?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. And you go back there and put her in the van at that
5 point in time, correct?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. And you put her through the back doors? Side doors?

8 A. Through the side door.

9 Q. Okay. And is it at that point in time that you realize
10 she's bleeding from her head?

11 A. Yes, because whenever I try to pull her by her shirt,
12 her shirt started tearing. So I grabbed her head with my
13 hand. And whenever I got her in the van, I realized there
14 was blood on my hand. And that was the only hand I had on
15 her head.

16 Q. That was in the back of her head?

17 A. I'm not 100 percent sure where it was. Because, you
18 know, her shirt was tearing and -- just described what I
19 could.

20 Q. And it's your testimony that at that point in time you
21 put a toiletry bag -- explain what that is.

22 A. It was a grocery bag that I had in the car with all my,
23 basically, toiletries. Like hand soap and mouthwash, the
24 GPS that you guys -- or the detectives found in the van
25 would be in that bag as well.

1 Q. And by grocery bag, did you use a plastic grocery bag
2 that you get at Publix or Harris Teeter or something like
3 that?

4 A. Yes, sir; it was.

5 Q. And is your testimony that you put that -- if I
6 understood this correctly, you put that over her head and
7 wrapped electrical tape around to hold the bag over her
8 head?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. Is that correct?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Okay. And when you were going through all of that, you
13 didn't say anything about doing anything with her hands. Do
14 you remember that?

15 A. No.

16 Q. Mr. Hilton had to go back through and ask you about
17 that. And now you're saying you may have done that at the
18 same time; you don't remember.

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. Okay. I mean what would be the reason why you would
21 have bound her hands with electrical tape behind her back?

22 A. When they found her body, they were not bound. It was
23 one arm wrapped with electrical tape.

24 Q. Okay. With two loops in the tape. Do you want to look
25 at it?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 AST. SOL. SORENSON: May I approach?

3 THE COURT: (Affirms.)

4 A. (Witness reviews.)

5 Q. Let me ask you this question, all right. What would
6 possibly be the purpose of binding with electrical tape one
7 of her hands?

8 A. I don't know, sir. Like I said, I wasn't thinking in
9 my clear mind.

10 Q. But you don't deny that you ultimately put that
11 electrical tape not only her neck but at least one if not
12 both of her wrists. Is that correct?

13 A. I don't deny that, sir.

14 Q. And you at that point in time -- so you put that -- and
15 I assume this is all done on the side of the road?

16 A. This was done, yes, sir, on the side of the road in the
17 van.

18 Q. Then you get her up in the van?

19 A. No. She's already in the van when I put the bag -- the
20 electrical tape.

21 Q. So you drag her basically from the ground up into the
22 van, kind of behind the driver seat. Put the bag over her
23 head; electrical tape around the neck to hold the plastic
24 bag in place.

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Is that correct? Some point in time in there, tape a
2 wrist or two wrists, and then get in the van and start
3 driving.

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. And you said that took you ten to 15 minutes to get her
6 in the van?

7 A. That's my approximate time. I'm not 100 percent sure.

8 Q. Okay. If you are driving at 6:12 in the morning past
9 Trident Tech coming from your apartment, and it's your
10 testimony that would've been when you went and picked her
11 up.

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. So it's going to be a little after 6:12 that you're
14 getting to where her body is?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. Starting to get daylight out?

17 A. When I get on the interstate, that's when I notice that
18 there is daylight.

19 Q. Nobody drives by you on that frontage road when you're
20 trying to take 10 to 15 minutes to load her up into the van?

21 A. No, sir.

22 Q. And your testimony is that you ultimately end up
23 finding this area in Harleyville where you buried her just
24 basically just driving. Is that correct?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. Okay. And if I understand -- the way I understood this
2 is initially you pull up and you get her out of the van, put
3 her on the side of the road again?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. And go park the van inside a fence somewhere, I guess
6 hiding the van. Is that correct?

7 A. Yeah. It was pretty much in the -- there was nothing
8 obscure its view or nothing.

9 Q. Okay. And then you go and take a board, and is it just
10 like one of these pieces -- I mean, similar to what one of
11 these pieces of hardwood flooring that are in the back of
12 the van?

13 A. It's the same exact board.

14 Q. Okay. So you take a board and you go out and it's your
15 testimony that you went out and dug a hole out in the woods.
16 Is that correct?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 Q. And how far in the woods from where you had Ashley did
19 you go?

20 A. I don't know. I just kept on pulling until I had no
21 more real energy to pull anymore. I'm falling on the ground.

22 Q. Okay. So you didn't dig the hole first?

23 A. No, sir.

24 Q. Okay. So you dragged her into the woods and then dug
25 the hole?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Okay. And just so we understand, I mean, is this,
3 showing you State's Exhibit No. 83, I mean is that the type
4 of vegetation and growth that we're talking about in the
5 area that you buried her?

6 A. Yes, sir. That's the exact spot.

7 Q. And that would be at least part of the hole that you
8 dug right there in State's Exhibit No. 84. Is that correct?

9 A. Yes, sir. It's exposed.

10 Q. Okay. And it's your testimony that you dug that hole
11 by yourself with a board?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. And dug a hole big enough and deep enough to put a
14 five-foot-one human body in. Is that correct?

15 A. Yes, sir. From what I remember from the testimony of
16 the corner, the hole was only about two and a half feet
17 deep.

18 Q. About that deep (indicating). Is that correct?

19 A. I would assume so; yes, sir.

20 Q. Five-feet wide; I mean, it was long enough to layer her
21 flat in. Is that correct?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. And wide enough to get to her body in also?

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. And it's your testimony you dug that with a board?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. By yourself?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. Pulled on the side of the road, dragged her a hundred
5 yards, 200 yards into the woods?

6 A. That's what they said; it was about 200 yards.

7 Q. Is that accurate? I know you weren't measuring it, but
8 does that seem about right? As far as you could drag her
9 until you got tired basically, right?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Okay. That you dragged her a couple hundred yards into
12 the wood, dug that hole, buried her in, that you did all
13 that by yourself in 30 minutes. Is that your testimony to
14 this jury?

15 A. Had to have been a little bit longer than that.

16 Q. Well, your phone is pinging in that Harleyville area
17 6:42 to 7:12 in the morning, 30 minutes.

18 A. Okay.

19 Q. It's your testimony you did all of that by yourself?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. You didn't have anybody help you?

22 A. No, sir.

23 Q. When you get her to -- and it's your testimony that you
24 get her to here and realize at that point in time that her
25 jeans have come all the way off of her?

1 A. It must have got snagged on something or, you know, I'm
2 pulling her to the woods by her arms.

3 Q. It's your testimony that while you're pulling her that
4 her jeans managed to come entirely off of her body along
5 with her underwear?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. And you don't realize it until you get her to where you
8 are?

9 A. Well, I'm pretty sure I did see it on the way there.
10 But, I mean, it wasn't something that I was -- you know,
11 it's not like I'm going to go back, grab her pants, and put
12 them back on her.

13 Q. Didn't go back and put them in the hole where you
14 buried her?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. You didn't, right?

17 A. No, sir.

18 Q. Okay. Because you know you go all the way back to try
19 to find the sandal that's missing, but you don't grab the
20 jeans that supposedly came off when you're pulling her
21 through the woods?

22 A. Yes, sir.

23 Q. But you get her there and at that point in time, her
24 glasses, obviously, are still on her, right? Because
25 they're found in the grave. Is that correct?

- 1 A. I believe they said they were found tangled in her
2 hair.
- 3 Q. And you end up burying her, put her face down in this
4 hole?
- 5 A. Yes, sir.
- 6 Q. Cover her with dirt?
- 7 A. Yes, sir.
- 8 Q. Okay. What do you do before you do that?
- 9 A. What do you mean?
- 10 Q. I thought I heard you say something about taking the
11 bag off of her head.
- 12 A. I did that in the van.
- 13 Q. Took the bag off her head in the van?
- 14 A. Yes, sir.
- 15 Q. How did you do that?
- 16 A. Just ripped it off.
- 17 Q. So you ripped it off and yet again this tape was
18 wrapped -- when you put her in the van, this tape was
19 wrapped around that bag around her neck. Is that correct?
- 20 A. Yes, sir.
- 21 Q. Obviously, they should have found -- I mean, the
22 plastic bag, grocery bag, should still be attached to the
23 tape around her neck from where you ripped. Is that
24 correct?
- 25 A. I don't know.

1 Q. The tape is still wrapped around her neck when you put
2 her in the ground, right?

3 A. Yes, sir.

4 Q. Why didn't you take that off of her? I mean, if you
5 had yanked, or taken the bag off of her, why leave the tape
6 wrapped around her neck?

7 A. I have no logical answer for that, sir.

8 Q. And, obviously, didn't take any tape off of her wrist
9 before you put her in the ground either. Is that correct?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. And then you go back from there -- so at this point in
12 time, you said it's starting to become daylight. Is that
13 right?

14 A. It was daylight when I was in the woods.

15 Q. Still daylight when ---

16 THE COURT: Speak up, please.

17 A. I said it was daylight when I was in the woods.

18 Q. Okay. And you end up just covering her basically with
19 dirt using the board?

20 A. Using the board and my hands.

21 Q. Okay. And then put a bunch of branches over top of
22 her?

23 A. I don't remember putting the branches on her.

24 Q. But, I mean, it's your testimony at that point in time
25 that you got back in the van and then drove back and were

1 able to find -- I mean, the same person that was unable to
2 find the house that she lived in that you been to, was able
3 to go back and find where all this occurred, though. Is
4 that correct?

5 A. Because it was just down 78, you turn at the blinking
6 light, and it was only road that I found on the right-hand
7 side of the road.

8 Q. Okay. Then at the point in time, it's definitely
9 daylight out then, right?

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Okay. And you go back and you find her flip-flop on
12 the side of the road?

13 A. I did; yes, sir.

14 Q. Okay. And it's your testimony you weren't looking for
15 her cell phone at that point in time?

16 A. No.

17 Q. And that you go then from there to a carwash over on 78
18 and Ladson Road?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. And you don't wash the car, do you?

21 A. I didn't wash the van at all.

22 Q. Okay, the van. That's right; you're in the van still
23 at this point in time.

24 A. Yes, sir.

25 Q. But you throw away the bag and the flip-flop?

1 A. The sandal.

2 Q. The sandal. All right. And then you go back to your
3 mom's in Hanahan. Is that correct?

4 A. Yes, sir.

5 Q. All right. And you ultimately end up calling and you
6 talked to Jasmine later on that morning?

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. Okay. Do you remember what that phone call was about?

9 A. Just she said she wasn't feeling well. Something about
10 her shoulder, I believe is what she said, hurt.

11 Q. You remember that phone call, but you have no
12 recollection of the phone call that you made to her at five
13 o'clock in the morning?

14 A. No. I mean, I believe maybe she was talking about -- I
15 think she had just got in a wreck with her friend Doug or
16 something like that. Now I remember it.

17 Q. So now she got in a wreck at five o'clock in the
18 morning?

19 A. Now that I remember, it was the Ravenel Bridge or
20 something like that.

21 Q. Let me ask you this: Patricia Riley; is that her mom
22 by any chance?

23 A. That's her mother.

24 Q. And then ultimately you end up taking this van back
25 that night that we talked about. And that's your mom that

1 follows?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. Okay. And why the sudden urgency at eleven o'clock at
4 night to go take the van back to work?

5 A. Just hiding it.

6 THE COURT: What?

7 A. Hiding the van.

8 Q. Hiding the van?

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. It had been at your apartment all day, right?

11 A. Yes, sir; I know.

12 Q. Didn't worry about hiding it back at eight o'clock in
13 the morning?

14 A. No, sir.

15 Q. Didn't worry about it then?

16 A. It was on my mind; yes, sir.

17 Q. But you wait and you take it at eleven o'clock at
18 night?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. What did you tell your mom as to why you had to go take
21 the van back to work at eleven o'clock on a Saturday night?

22 It's like it was going to be need on Sunday, right?

23 A. Uh-huh. Just told her to follow me; follow me to the
24 job. It wasn't anything different. You know, just can you
25 follow me down here and drop the van off.

1 Q. So you didn't tell her anything that you had done or
2 any reason why you needed to get that van away from the
3 apartment at that point in time?

4 A. No. I wouldn't disclose anything like that to my
5 mother.

6 Q. Let me ask you this: You said at some point in time
7 you started getting messages from the victim's sister,
8 Brandy?

9 A. That would've been Sunday.

10 Q. Well, you actually started getting them that Saturday
11 night. Is that correct?

12 A. If I did, I don't remember.

13 Q. That Saturday night -- I mean, you've seen these. I
14 mean where she was sending you message after message after
15 message over this Kik app.

16 A. What was the time frame on there? I never saw a time
17 stamp.

18 Q. It would be four --

19 AST. SOL. SORENSON: May I approach, Your Honor?

20 THE COURT: (Affirms.)

21 Q. This is State's Exhibit No. 4. April 4th, 9:46 I
22 believe it is in the evening.

23 A. Okay.

24 Q. There's a little check next to them showing -- that
25 shows that you actually read them. Is that correct?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. So you did see them. Is that correct? That Saturday
3 night.

4 A. Well, I mean as soon as I look at the app and open it
5 up, it automatically checks them. It doesn't say that I
6 checked the messages at 9:46 p.m. I could have checked them
7 the next morning and then the check would be there.

8 Q. Okay. So it's your testimony that you didn't hear from
9 her or didn't realize she was trying to contact you until
10 you got up the next morning. Is that correct?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Well, tell me this then: If that's the case then, Mr.
13 Bonilla, how come on the evening of Saturday, April 4th, --
14 bear with me one second -- at 10:27 in the evening there's a
15 seven minute and fifteen second call from Haley, Ashley's
16 daughter cell phone, to your phone.

17 A. At what time?

18 Q. 10:27?

19 A. At night or during the day?

20 Q. Evening; Saturday night.

21 A. I don't recall that.

22 Q. Seven and a half minute call; do you remember Brandy's
23 testimony that she got -- finally they were frantically
24 messaging you, calling you, and that finally Haley, Ashley's
25 daughter, had gotten through to you on her phone and handed

1 the phone to Brandy?

2 A. I do remember her testimony.

3 Q. Okay. And you deny on that happening?

4 A. I don't remember the time.

5 Q. All right. But the fact of the matter, looking at the
6 records, that's at 10:27 that evening. No reason to doubt
7 the phone records, do you?

8 A. No; not at all.

9 Q. Okay. And, of course, you lied to her, correct?

10 A. I did.

11 Q. Told her that you left her sister by that mobile home
12 park down the road. Is that correct?

13 A. Yes, sir.

14 Q. All right. And then the fact that that's why 20
15 minutes later, you got your mom following you to get rid of
16 that van because you know the gig is up at that point in
17 time?

18 A. I knew it was up the moment it happened, sir.

19 Q. You knew at that point in time they knew -- law
20 enforcement was going to know exactly who you were. Is that
21 correct?

22 A. I mean, they knew who I was because I identified
23 myself. I gave them information to my phone, where I lived,
24 that sort stuff; background information.

25 Q. Of course, that was the reason why you sent the 3:29

1 text message trying to cover your tracks, though, right?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. Then the fact of the matter is that, you know, an hour
4 later at 11:50 there's another 8 minute and 52 second call
5 where they have called you back again. They have now talked
6 to law enforcement, filed a missing person report. They're
7 still trying to get more information from you. Is that
8 correct?

9 A. I believe so. I mean, like I said, I don't remember
10 those phone call conversations.

11 Q. And Brandy, Ashley's sister, ends up making contact
12 with you a handful of times over the next couple days. Is
13 that correct?

14 A. Yes, sir; she did.

15 Q. She's calling you?

16 A. She's calling me -- she's calling me; I'm returning her
17 phone calls.

18 Q. She's texting you?

19 A. Yes, sir.

20 Q. Okay. Even to the point that by Monday, so a couple of
21 days later, of course they have not found her sister, don't
22 have any idea what would've happened to her, where she is
23 actually apologizing to you for basically for bothering you
24 at that point in time. Is that correct?

25 A. I believe that is one of the text messages.

1 Q. In fact on Monday April 6th at 6:10 in the evening, and
2 she sends you a long text, "Once again, I'm sorry for being
3 so pushy. I just feel helpless in not knowing what to do.
4 It's just hard to sit back and do nothing, but I agree we
5 need to let the detective do his job. I'm sorry for
6 late-night calls and text messages. It won't happen again.
7 And again, I'm sorry for offending you. I agree it wasn't
8 my place to ask you that. Just felt like I should apologize
9 once more for coming on strong, but she's my little sister
10 and I'm just really worried. I'm sure you understand that."
11 And of course, you talked to her on the phone at that point
12 in time, so heard through her voice how worried she was
13 about her sister. Is that correct?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. And your response to that text message to her, do you
16 remember what it was?

17 A. I believe I told her to allow the detectives to do
18 their job.

19 Q. And you said thank you. Basically accepted her apology
20 for bothering you. You said, "Thank you and I apologize as
21 well for my stubbornness." Of course, the lies to her

22 weren't the only lies you were telling. Is that correct?

23 A. No; there was a few of them.

24 Q. You lied to the detective that calls you on the phone?
25 Is that correct? On Monday.

1 A. Which one? Detective ---

2 Q. Detective Harris that testified.

3 A. Everything that I told him was factual except for
4 leaving Ashley on the side of the road.

5 Q. Told him you left the bonfire because she was being
6 very combative. Is that the reason why y'all left?

7 A. Yes. She was causing issues with people there.

8 Q. And, of course, a couple of days later you give a
9 statement to Detective Martin. It's around here somewhere.
10 Do you remember two-page statement? And, of course, you
11 lied to him also. Is that correct?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Okay. Lying to him about the fact that you didn't have
14 a job. Not only what you did or didn't do to Ashley, but
15 the fact that you were even employed. Is that correct?

16 A. Yes, Sir.

17 Q. And then even when you're caught, I mean, at your job;
18 I mean, they're there at your job with your boss standing
19 right there, you still can't help yourself, can you?

20 A. It's not necessarily helping myself. It's more of
21 fear, sir.

22 Q. Your boss standing right there, still tell Detective
23 Martin that I just started working a couple of days ago. Is
24 that correct?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. How were you feeling when you saw the tow that Ford van
2 away?

3 A. I wasn't there when they towed it away.

4 Q. But you saw it get pulled around from the back lot
5 where it was locked up, right?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. And it's your testimony, just so I understand this,
8 that you out on the road, Winter Drive or wherever it is
9 near that mobile home park, that you never physically
10 assaulted Ashley Pegram?

11 A. No, sir. I never did.

12 Q. Never punched her? Never hit her with anything? Never
13 slammed her head against a car, on the ground? Anything of
14 that nature?

15 A. No, sir; I did not.

16 Q. You never assaulted Ashley Pegram in the back of that
17 Ford Van?

18 A. No, sir.

19 Q. You never hit her with any items?

20 A. No, sir.

21 Q. Slammed her head on the ground, on the van?

22 A. No, sir.

23 Q. Punched her?

24 A. No.

25 Q. But you never at any point in time physically assaulted

1 her at all?

2 A. No, sir.

3 Q. The extent of what you did to her was coming up behind
4 her and either putting her in a chokehold or possibly
5 covering her mouth?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. How long did you do that for?

8 A. Well, I also had like one arm there and the other arm I
9 was, you know, with the mouth or the chokehold. I'm not
10 100 percent sure.

11 Q. What was that last part?

12 A. I said I'm not 100 percent sure, you know, if it was
13 the mouth or the neck.

14 Q. And at no point in time did she ever physically assault
15 you. She was swinging at you, but never hit you? Never
16 caused any injury to you?

17 A. Never caused any injury; no, sir.

18 Q. You weren't cut or bleeding anywhere?

19 A. No, sir.

20 Q. The blood that was on your shirt, you testified that
21 had to be her blood?

22 A. It had to have been; yes, sir.

23 AST. SOL. SORENSON: Beg the Court's indulgence.

24 (Brief pause.) That will be all I have, Your Honor. Thank
25 you.

1 THE COURT: Anything on redirect?

2 MR. HILTON: Just one question.

3 REDIRECT EXAMINATION

4 BY MR. HILTON:

5 Q. Mr. Bonilla, there were some stuff found in the back of
6 the van one of which was a tube of Astroglide.

7 A. Yes, sir.

8 Q. What is that about?

9 A. Like I said, that van was my major mode of
10 transportation. So it could have got in there when I went,
11 you know, on a date with one of the people that I met on
12 Craigslist or one of the other dating sites.

13 Q. Did it have anything to do with this case?

14 A. No, sir.

15 Q. Was it in that bag of stuff along with the GPS and
16 whatever else you said?

17 A. Yes, sir.

18 MR. HILTON: No further questions.

19 THE COURT: All right.

20 THE WITNESS: Thank you, Your Honor.

21 AST. SOL. SORENSON: Just sit tight right there a
22 second. You got another witness?

23 MR. HILTON: At this time the Defense would rest, Your
24 Honor.

25 THE COURT: Anything in reply?

1 So please pay close attention. Y'all have been a
2 wonderful jury. Paid close attention throughout. Taking a
3 lot of notes; I've been watching you. And I thank you.
4 Obviously, it's a very important situation for everybody
5 involved. It will be in your hands very shortly.
6 Mr. Sorenson? Mr. Templeton?

7 CLOSING ARGUMENTS

8 AST. SOL. TEMPLETON: May it please the Court?

9 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

10 AST. SOL. TEMPLETON: Ladies and gentlemen, I want to
11 begin by thanking you for your time, your attention
12 throughout this trial on behalf of the State of South
13 Carolina and the family of Ashley Pegram. At this point, we
14 reached the point in the trial where we get to talk to you;
15 to give you what we believe the law is and then the facts
16 after that. Mr. Hilton will get to speak to you in a few
17 moments, and Mr. Sorenson will be able up to finish up and
18 go over the facts that the State believes are supported.

19 When I came to you on Tuesday morning, I talked to you
20 about what we believe the law of murder to be. I told you
21 -- all of you know what murder is. But the legal definition
22 is the taking of a life with malice aforethought. Malice
23 meaning ill will, hatred, hostility. Aforethought, meaning
24 in the mind of the defendant, just before and at the time of
25 the killing. It didn't have to form for any amount of time

1 before. It could be an hour before, a minute before, a
2 second before. But it must be in the mind of the defendant
3 at the time and just before the killing. As you know, we
4 can't go into Mr. Bonilla's brain. We can't see malice.
5 But what you can do is based on the facts, the
6 circumstances, and Mr. Bonilla's actions, you can decide
7 whether you believe, whether you're firmly convinced of that
8 malice. You will also be charged on a lesser included
9 offense of involuntary manslaughter. Involuntary
10 manslaughter is an unintentional killing with no malice with
11 one of two possible situations: That the defendant was
12 committing an unlawful act not amounting to a felony and not
13 naturally tending to cause death or great bodily injury; or
14 the second possibility, he was acting in a lawful act with
15 disregard for human life.

16 Last thing, ladies and gentlemen, I want to talk to you
17 very quickly about the burden in this case. I talked to you
18 a little bit about that on Tuesday morning as well. It's
19 the same burden as every criminal court throughout our
20 country. It's beyond a reasonable doubt. And what that
21 means is the State must provide each of you with sufficient
22 evidence for you to be firmly convinced of the defendant's
23 guilt. Ladies and gentlemen, I've never sat on a jury.
24 I've never been able to sit in your seat. But I can imagine
25 how hard it is for you to listen to all of that testimony

1 that you heard from that witness stand, to see all the
2 exhibits, and not be able to discuss it. In just a little
3 while, you will be able to. And you will be able to tell
4 the world what really happened on April 4, 2015 through your
5 verdict. Verdict comes from the Latin word veridicta
6 meaning to speak the truth. That will soon be your duty.
7 Thank you.

8 THE COURT: Mr. Hilton?

9 MR. HILTON: Good morning, ladies and gentlemen. I
10 want to take a moment to thank you all for your services
11 this week. We've spent a lot time here and it's a lot of
12 time out of your personal schedule that you've invested. I
13 told you at the beginning that this was an important case
14 for everybody. And I want to be real clear from the outset,
15 this case is not a who done it. There's no question Edward
16 Bonilla got up and he took the stand; he told you what
17 happened that night. He said Ashley Pegram died in his
18 hands. And I also told you at the beginning that things
19 don't always appear as they seem on the outset. Let's take
20 a look at the evidence that the State presented to you.

21 The first witness in this case was Brandy Chance, and
22 that was, is, Ashley Pegram's sister. And she got up and
23 she testified that she lost her sister; lost a friend. And
24 she may not have said these words, but it was clear from her
25 testimony this is an absolute tragedy to their family. But

1 what else did we learn from Brandy Chance's testimony? We
2 learned that it was Ashley Pegram who asked Mr. Bonilla to
3 pick her up. That's in these messages. And she says,
4 "Let's hang out. I've got something to drink." She says,
5 "I don't have a car." She's the one that says let's hang
6 out. She also said, "Will you pick me up a 12 pack?" And
7 he did that. And Ms. Chance also testified to something
8 that I didn't think was all that important, but Mr. Sorenson
9 made a big deal out of it on his cross examination of
10 Mr. Bonilla. He said she said that Ashley left her cell
11 phone at home that night. And we know that because there
12 were some conversations back and forth between Edward and
13 Brandy on the cell phone that Ashley was using. That was
14 her mother's cell phone and that's how they contacted him
15 afterwards.

16 And then you heard from Lindsay Diaz. She was living
17 with Anthony Navarro at the time. He testified as well.
18 You heard they had a little party, a little gathering,
19 bonfire, whatever it was called; multiple things. But they
20 had a little gathering at their house over in Goose Creek.
21 Edward and Ashley came up, and although reluctantly Lindsay
22 Diaz ended up testifying that she admitted to Detective
23 Martin that she was intoxicated; she was talking to herself.
24 Talking to herself. They left that party and the next time
25 they were seen together is on that Sunoco video where you

1 see the green Hyundai Sonata pull up; you see her get out,
2 go in and use the restroom and come back.

3 You got the phone records. The phone records verify
4 all of that; the phone records verify that afterwards they
5 went back towards the Summerville area. And at that point,
6 Ashley Pegram doesn't come home. The family starts getting
7 worried. That's when Brandy starts messaging, calling.
8 Ultimately, a missing persons report is filed. And Edward
9 responds to some of these calls and messages. And what does
10 he give? He gives his name, telephone number. Other
11 information that was included? I think he had already given
12 his address at some point. And he talks to the police and
13 he admits to them at that point that they were together;
14 they went to this party in Goose Creek; they were at the
15 Sunoco; and he was driving that green Hyundai Sonata. And
16 it was from that statement that they were able to go to the
17 Sunoco and get that video verifying that they were there.
18 But instead of saying what happened at that time, which he
19 should have, instead of saying what happened at that time,
20 he didn't. Was he scared? Probably so. Didn't want to get
21 caught? Probably so. Instead of disclosing what really
22 happened that night, he started lying. And he lied about
23 working for Mr. Cauble. He lied about knowing anything
24 about Ashley's death.

25 The Sheriff's Office at this time is beginning their

1 investigation as well. They had gotten the Sunoco video
2 based on his statements. They get his phone record showing
3 the location based on the number he provided. They find this
4 Hyundai Sonata. They find the work van. And to the
5 Sheriff's Office, to everybody who had any involvement in
6 this case at the time, it looked real bad. There's blood in
7 the Hyundai; there's blood in the van. Edward is starting
8 to give them bad information about where he works and so
9 forth. And they end up arresting him. They charge him with
10 obstruction first, and a few days later -- I think the
11 testimony was that he was charged with murder actually on
12 May 5th was the testimony that Detective Martin provided.
13 And on May 8th, three days later, they get a break in the
14 case. Edward Bonilla, the guy that the State wants you to
15 believe stalked this girl online, drugged her, raped her,
16 strangled her, bludgeoned her, ultimately murdered her. The
17 guy that they're alleging did all of this, three days after
18 his arrest, meets with his attorney, the chief public
19 defender, and discloses the location of the body. Why would
20 he do that?

21 If all of what they're saying and what they're alleging
22 is true, why would he do that? Why not just keep your mouth
23 shut? They may have never found her. But they do find her.
24 They find her based on his story to them. His statement,
25 you will find her in this area. And they go out; they don't

1 find her the first day. And the next day, they go back with
2 the dogs and they do find her. And it looks real bad. Five
3 weeks of decomposition and they dig up what turns out to be
4 the body of Ashley Pegram. It was at that time that the
5 State, the Sheriff's Office locked in on a theory. And they
6 put on their blinders and they weren't interested in
7 anything else. You heard from Detective Martin that they
8 got a lead from a girl named Tiffany Jinks that Ashley
9 Martin [sic] was on her Meet Me profile on Monday. This
10 would have been two days after her death according to them.
11 They never even called the girl back. It never even made it
12 to his written report. He told you that. Remember we had a
13 look at his handwritten notes. And he said, "Oh, yeah, I
14 logged onto to Meet Me. I couldn't find her profile."
15 Never even called the girl back. That was inconsistent with
16 their theory so it made no difference to them; it didn't
17 matter.

18 Now, did Jimmy Mead or Tiffany Jinks do this?
19 Absolutely not. We know that that's not the case. And
20 that's not the point of that. The point of me going over
21 that and stressing that with you is that they had on their
22 blinders, and they weren't interested in anything other than
23 the theory that they had locked in on. That he had drugged,
24 raped, strangled, murdered Ashley Pegram and dumped her body
25 in a shallow grave. If it didn't fit into that narrow

1 theory, they're done.

2 Let me give you another example. The State put a lot
3 of time -- Sheriff's Office, Crime Scene, put a lot of time
4 into processing this van. Blood everywhere in this van.
5 Yet, mysteriously enough, the first three swabs that they
6 test all test negative. They admitted to that. Number 4,
7 they get a positive hit. I thought it was interesting that
8 according to the report, every swab thereafter tested
9 positive except for number 19. You know, preparing for
10 this, I said what are the chances that? The first three are
11 negative and everything else except number 19. And then we
12 learned, you know, Jeff Scott gave us the answer, that they
13 quit taking pictures of all the negative swabs because it
14 was just too much evidence to process. And we don't know
15 what in all they tested that was negative. The first three
16 and then after that the negative tested didn't have any
17 bearing on what they were doing.

18 I asked him, I said where are the pictures of swabs 14
19 to 22? Didn't take any. Why not? Why not? Wouldn't that
20 have been helpful? And when you look at these swabs, you'll
21 notice there's a swab in here that's labeled number 9, and I
22 may not be able to find it quickly. But there's a swab in
23 here that's number 9. And they ended up swabbing that twice
24 and they took it up to SLED. And that's blood. And there
25 is a picture of the O-Tolidine test on that as well.

1 There's no question that that's blood. They did what they
2 were supposed to do to that. They swabbed it; they got a
3 presumptive result. It's clearly a deep blue. They took a
4 sample of that; they sent it to SLED and it was tested
5 against her DNA. And we know, we now know, that that was
6 Ashley Pegram's blood. Swab number 10 in the pictures is a
7 little bit weaker. Swab number 11, we don't have a picture
8 of. Swab number 12, is pretty weak again. If you look at
9 the pictures of those, you'll see they start getting weaker.
10 And number 13, that's is in there as well. The Sheriff's
11 office is labeled number 13, is in there as well. And I
12 went over that with Detective Scott. And I still don't see
13 any blue in that picture. And I've looked at it many times.

14 Now, I'm not going to waste your time digging through
15 the pictures, but you can find it. Make a note of that;
16 it's number 13. The instructions on that O-Tolidine test
17 that's marked as Defense Exhibit 1, the last line on there
18 says, "Pale color development should be disregarded." Pale
19 color development should be disregarded. If number 9 is
20 blood and you see that bright blue tip, compare that to
21 number 13 and see if you think it's blood. After number 13,
22 the most important part of their evidence processing, they
23 stopped taking pictures of the O-Tolidine test. Because
24 from that point on, we're in this blood spatter on the roof.
25 And they stopped taking any pictures from that point on of

1 these presumptive swabs. Number 19, I talked about a minute
2 ago, left out of his report that was written at the time.
3 All this time he had to do a supplement and correct that.
4 And he waits until he gets on the witness stand to tell us,
5 oh, number 19? Oh, yeah, that was positive too. That
6 should've been in there. Wouldn't it be nice to know
7 whether all of that was blood or not? They testified that
8 it was. Or wouldn't it be nice to be able to look at those
9 pictures and say it was blood like in number 13 or was it
10 blood like in number 9? We don't know because they quit
11 taking pictures. And any of the negative stains that they
12 came across, didn't even document. They didn't even
13 document for you to be able to say, wait a minute, this one
14 is not blood, but this one is. How can we compare? How can
15 we compare the two?

16 Now swab number 21, that's the one in the roof up
17 there. They circle one area and they take a swab of that,
18 and it did tests positive for her DNA. I want you to
19 understand, I'm not suggesting that there is no blood in
20 that van and no blood on that ceiling. We know that's not
21 the case. What I'm suggesting to you is all that stain
22 pattern, some of their most important evidence, is all of
23 that blood? I would like to know. And I don't know because
24 we don't even know what tested negative. We know things
25 tested negative because Detective Scott said we quit taking

1 pictures of negative tests. Well, which ones are negative
2 which ones are positive? He said the ones that were, we
3 marked and we circled and we put a number beside it. But we
4 don't know the ones that are negative.

5 It's the State's burden of proof to prove beyond a
6 reasonable doubt that all of that was blood up there for
7 them to get up there and say it was some blood splatter
8 pattern. What is it? Is it something from that red bucket
9 that was in the van. Take a look at that picture. It sure
10 looks like blood to me. We don't know. They said they
11 tested it and it tested negative. I don't know. They
12 didn't take any pictures of those tests. The State wants
13 you to believe that she was beat, Ashley, was beat in the
14 back of that van over and over and over again with multiple
15 blows. And Detective Mullis testified each time that item
16 would get back into blood and sling blood onto the ceiling;
17 cast off that blood onto the ceiling. Look, Detective
18 Mullis is a great guy. He's a nice guy, but all that
19 testimony came from a one-week class with a handbook at the
20 end of it. And you heard Detective Mullis and you saw the
21 arm motions of Mr. Sorenson. But guess what? They did an
22 autopsy. The injuries are not consistent with all of that.
23 The injuries are not consistent with her being beat with
24 some object over and over and over again causing this blood
25 stain pattern on the ceiling. That was their pathologist.

1 The pathologist testified there were no broken bones and no
2 skull fractures, and there was some contusions over the left
3 orbital and a place either right or left side of her head.
4 But it was no skull fractures and no broken bones. In fact,
5 the pathologist wouldn't even say that the cause of death
6 was blunt force trauma. But yet they want you to believe
7 that's how she got in the back of that van. They want you
8 to believe that to the point where they put it in their
9 indictment and that's the allegations in the indictment is
10 that she died from blunt force trauma. And remember, if
11 it's inconsistent with their theory, to be disregarded. It
12 doesn't even warrant a phone call back or a photograph to be
13 taken.

14 He restrained her. She was accidentally choked and
15 that's perfectly consistent with the pathologist's
16 testimony. Injuries from that head, on her head, around her
17 eye, think that could've come from her being hit by the car
18 and falling back on the ground or something? He testified
19 she was on the ground when he went back there. And
20 yesterday what I think is the most important testimony of
21 all, the person who was there, Edward Bonilla, he got up
22 here and he took the witness stand and he testified that he
23 picked up Ashley. They went out and she started getting out
24 of hand. She's are getting out of hand at the party and
25 that was corroborated by the State's witness, Lindsay Diaz,

1 and by Anthony Navarro. And they ended up leaving. He
2 testified that they went to their house to drop off some
3 marijuana that he had. He came back by, she had to use the
4 restroom; they stop at the Sunoco. All of this is
5 documented by the phone records by the way. They leave the
6 Sunoco and they go back to the area where she lives and
7 she's giving him bad directions. She's yelling about him
8 stealing her mom's cell phone. Now, let's think about that
9 for a minute. How would he have made that up? How would he
10 have possibly known, one, that it was her mom's phone? How
11 would he have possibly know that? And she actually left her
12 cell phone at the house, not only -- I say her cell phone.
13 She left her mom's cell phone at the house. We know that
14 because Brandy Chance told us that, first witness. First
15 witness. How would've Edward made that up?

16 She's laughing, she's talking to herself in the car;
17 goes back to accusing him about the phone. Laughing,
18 talking, accusing him about the phone. Remember, she was
19 doing that at the gathering as well, at the party. And they
20 get to an area out there and she keeps giving him bad
21 information about where she lives. And finally she says,
22 you know, stop, I've got to use the bathroom again.
23 Remember, she had been drinking heavy. And she gets out and
24 he's had enough. He's ready to leave. She gets out of the
25 car and he backs up to leave and hits her with the car

1 accidentally. It's not too serious. He gets out and he
2 checks on her. She's not dead. She's got an injury to her
3 head. She's not dead at that point. But he gets out to see
4 what happened, and she starts yelling at them. She starts
5 kicking the car; starts trying to attack him. And he says,
6 whoa, whoa, wait a minute here. And he restrains her.

7 Now, where did we learn that Ashley could get out of
8 hand when she had been drinking? I think the testimony was
9 it seemed like she could be bipolar. Brandy Chance told us
10 that. Her own sister told us that. Edward didn't make that
11 up. Her own sister verified that on the witness stand. And
12 in the unfortunate event, he tried to restrain her from
13 kicking the car, attacking him; she died. She died. He
14 learns about the cut on his head, the blood on his shirt.
15 He said he went and sat in the car for a minute thinking
16 about what to do. Should I call the police? Should I call
17 the ambulance? He panics; he panics. From that point on,
18 Edward Bonilla makes a series of choices to make this case
19 look real bad. She's bleeding from the head; he's got blood
20 on his shirt. He opens the trunk of that car and puts her
21 body in it. He takes her off to an area in North
22 Charleston, Rab Drive he testified to. It's a frontage road
23 on the side of I-26. And he takes her out of the car and he
24 leaves her body there. Later that night, he goes and gets
25 the van from his house and he gets sick. And he sends her a

1 message to start covering things up. He says that 3:29.
2 "Hello, you still awake? Just making sure you made it home.
3 Sorry I left at the gas station, but you were too drunk to
4 handle." He begins covering up what he had done. It's not
5 a good idea, but that's what he does. And he admits to
6 that.

7 Around that same time within an hour or so, he sends a
8 message to his boss saying, "I'm not going to make it into
9 work, I'm sick." He was sick. That wasn't the sole reason,
10 but he was sick. And the reason he said he wasn't going to
11 make it into work is because he knew he had to do something
12 with this body. He gets in his work van and he starts to
13 ride around. He picks up her body off of Rab Road. And in
14 the process of putting her in that van, her shirt tears.
15 She's bleeding from the head and he takes a bag -- this is
16 all his testimony -- takes a bag and wraps it around her
17 head; a bag that he had all of that stuff in the van. He
18 dumps that out. He gets that bag and wraps some electrical
19 tape around the seal of that bag. Tape that he had in the
20 van; tape that he had used on the job for wiring up his
21 flooring sand. And he said, you know, "I may have taped her
22 hands at the same time. I'm not sure. I'm not sure."
23 Well, let me tell you something, you know, maybe he used
24 that to drag her; maybe he used that to secure her hands to
25 make it easier to move her. I don't know. But if you're

1 going to make up a story, if you're going to make up a
2 story, make something up about this part. This is the worst
3 part of it. Her hands are bound. And if he's up here lying
4 to you about what he did that night, come up with some
5 explanation for the tape.

6 I submit to you the fact that he can't remember exactly
7 what happened with that tape is evidence that he's actually
8 being truthful to you. Think about that. If you're going
9 to make up a story, you're going to have an explanation for
10 that. The State has no evidence as to what happened with
11 that. They can only ask you to guess. They're only asking
12 you to guess. He loads up her body in the van and he takes
13 off to Harleyville. He goes up to what appears to him to be
14 a remote location, takes her out of the van, takes that bag
15 off of her head, and what does he do with it? I asked him,
16 "What did you do with the bag?" I threw it in the van. I
17 threw it in the van. Assuming that's blood splatter on the
18 roof, assuming that's blood and DNA, which we submit to you
19 it is, you think it could've come from him throwing that
20 blood? Throwing that bag? We know it had blood in it. She
21 was bleeding from the head. That's why he put the bag on
22 her head to begin with. Now, Detective Mullis says, no,
23 that can't be possible. It was multiple, multiple blows.
24 Multiple blows. Remember, the injuries aren't consistent
25 with that. There are no injuries on her body that are

1 consistent with multiple blows.

2 And in Harleyville, he drags her body into the woods,
3 alternating between her hands and feet. He says her pants
4 pulled off some where in the woods. They didn't find them.
5 And I submit to you, ladies and gentlemen, when they found
6 that body out there, that was the end of their search. They
7 didn't look any further. The fact that they didn't find
8 those pants first, if they would've kept looking, they
9 would've found them. And remember, she was out of the car
10 that night urinating at the back of the car when she was
11 struck and she may have pulled her pants up, but we don't
12 know that they were buttoned or they were even zipped up.
13 They could have easily come off. Nonetheless, her pants are
14 off. And he digs a shallow grave, puts her body in the
15 grave. And that is where he leaves her body. And there was
16 testimony from the coroner about this grave being two and a
17 half feet deep. Let me tell you, you got the picture of it.
18 It barely covered her body to the point where a portion of
19 it had some animal activity that had already begun. Because
20 it was exposed. It was it's exposed. This grave is not two
21 and a half feet deep. This grave is barely deep enough to
22 cover her body. Don't let them try to fool you by saying he
23 didn't have enough time to go and dig this two and a half
24 foot grave. The term grave is used loosely. This is a
25 depression, essentially, with enough to barely cover her

1 body.

2 And from that point on, he returns and the cover-up
3 continues. He tells you, he goes back to the scene in
4 Summerville. The State didn't know that. Although, it's
5 verified in his phone records. You've got his phone records
6 of that. He goes back to the scene in Summerville; he picks
7 up her sandal. And by this time it's daylight and there he
8 goes down Highway 78, down Highway 78. At the intersection
9 he testified to intersection of 78 and Ladson Road near the
10 fairgrounds down there. There's a service station with a
11 dumpster behind it, car wash, and he throws that bag and
12 sandal into that dumpster. Police never find it. Had no
13 reason to go look. He lies to the family; he lies to
14 police. And ultimately, they figure out this is the guy
15 that they are looking for. Edward knew that he would have
16 to face the music and some point. And for someone who was
17 trying to cover things up, well, he should have given them a lot
18 of information that they needed. He told them who he was.
19 He told them where they went; where he lived. And they
20 found the van, he told Mr. Cauble this was a big mistake.
21 Andy Martin testified to that. And he had heard him tell
22 Mr. Cauble, "This is a big mistake." Mr. Sorenson asks him,
23 "You knew the gig was up, didn't you?" And his response, "I
24 knew the gig was from the moment it happened." He knew he
25 was going to get caught. He knew he was going to get

1 caught. That's why he gave this information to begin with.
2 They arrested him.

3 Shortly thereafter, the chief public defender Mark
4 Leiendecker, he told him where she could be found. He
5 didn't have to do any of that, but he did. He didn't have
6 to meet with them. He didn't have to give them a statement.
7 He didn't have to tell them where the body was buried. He
8 didn't have to testify at this trial. He didn't have to say
9 a word. But he did. All the evidence that they found
10 against him practically, was evidence that he gave them
11 information where they could find her. The State wants you
12 to believe drugged, raped, strangled, bludgeoned, and
13 murdered Ashley Pegram. He sure gave a lot of helpful
14 information in this case. When it came time for his trial
15 at the beginning of this week, the trial went on and
16 yesterday he took the stand and he told you what happened.
17 He told you things law enforcement never figured out. Such
18 as going back to the scene in Summerville, throwing stuff
19 away in Ladson, and that her body was dumped out beside the
20 interstate on Rab Road. They didn't know that. They didn't
21 know it.

22 I want to dispel a few things at this point because
23 there's been a lot of talk about him so called drugging her.
24 Mr. Sorenson tried to make hay with Lindsay Diaz, his
25 witness, about Ashley wanting to put her drinking in a cup

1 or then wanting her to put her drink in a cup at the end of
2 the night or whatever. She ended up not doing that. She
3 went home with the bottle. I don't know how they're
4 suggesting that he somehow had something in this cup and
5 then she was going to pour a beer on the top of it. But
6 that was the testimony he was trying to get out. And Dr.
7 Batalis testified that that muscle relaxer could've been in
8 her sister days before her death; days before her death.
9 There is no evidence the Edward Bonilla tried to drug Ashley
10 Pegram. None. Another thing is this paint can. This
11 gallon can of urethane. There's some pictures of it. They
12 suggested the can was bent, the handle was off of it. They
13 swabbed it for blood and evidently get a O-Tolidine
14 presumptive test. They didn't mention to you in these
15 pictures, and you can see for yourself, there's other cans
16 that are dented up that don't have blood on them. They want
17 you to believe that somehow she was beat with this paint
18 can. Have you ever tried to swing a paint can with a handle
19 on it? And by the way, if they're going to allege this was
20 the murder weapon in this case, where is it? Wouldn't you
21 introduce that into evidence? Wouldn't you swab that for
22 DNA and see if her DNA was on it? They didn't do anything
23 of that. All they did was take a picture of it and they're
24 going to convince you that she was beat with this item. And
25 somehow this handle come off. All they gave you was a

1 picture.

2 Now, let's talk about intent for a moment.

3 Mr. Templeton talked to you about some of the law and the
4 judge is going to give you some detailed instructions on the
5 law in the case. But let's talk about intent. For the
6 State to prove that Edward Bonilla is guilty of the crime of
7 murder, they have to prove that he intended to kill her at
8 the time of the incident. And not only did he intend to do
9 it, but that intent was with malice aforethought. Malice
10 has some specific meanings that the judge will tell you.
11 But suffice it to say, one of the definitions is ill will or
12 hatred. That he set out fatally bent on mischief. Those
13 are the definitions that you have to consider. There's no
14 evidence of that. There is no evidence of that. I asked
15 him specifically, "Did you mean to kill her?" No. "Did you
16 mean to hurt her?" No. But he told you what happened. If
17 he planned to kill Ashley Pegram that night, why would he
18 leave his personal cell phone number? Why would he leave
19 his real name? Why would he then take her to a party where
20 he would be seen with her with people that knew him? Some
21 family and some friends. Why would you do that? If you're
22 setting out to kill somebody, why do you do that? That
23 doesn't even makes sense. And it goes along with something
24 that I have not heard one mention of in this trial, was
25 there any reason to kill Ashley Pegram? I can't think of

1 any. What did he gain from it?

2 Now, you'll have three possible verdicts in this case.
3 You're going to have the option of finding him guilty of
4 murder if you find that he intentionally killed Ashley
5 Pegram with malice aforethought. And that aforethought
6 meaning that his malice was in his mind at the time of the
7 incident or before, not after. Not all this stuff about
8 bury and all that. That's not for malice. Malice is at the
9 time of the incident or before. That's where you get the
10 term aforethought. You can have the option of finding him
11 guilty of murder if you believe all of that. There's the
12 option of finding him guilty of involuntary manslaughter.
13 And involuntary manslaughter is less than murder.
14 Involuntary manslaughter is when you do something in the
15 reckless disregard for the safety of others without the
16 intent to kill somebody. Without the intent to kill
17 somebody. Or you can find him not guilty.

18 Now, you ask yourself, well, what a minute. How are we
19 going to find this guy not guilty when there's all this
20 evidence? And he admitted to doing so. Well, if you find
21 that this was an accident, if you find he had no intent to
22 kill this girl, Ashley Pegram, if you find that he had no
23 reckless disregard for the safety of others or we wasn't
24 engaged in some type of conduct that was some unlawful
25 conduct that was likely to injure her, and you find it was

1 an accident, you can find him not guilty. You can find him
2 not guilty. Edward may be guilty of a lot of things, but
3 the only question for you is did he intend to kill Ashley
4 Pegram on the night of April 3rd, early morning hours of
5 April 4, 2015? That's the question before you. They could
6 have charged him with disposing of a body, improper handling
7 of a corpse. They did charge him lying to police. They
8 decided not to go forward on that. The question before you
9 is his intent. Again, I told you on the outset that things
10 aren't always what they seem.

11 And the State is going to get the opportunity to get up
12 here now and go through all of these theories with you. But
13 I want you to ask yourself, does all that really make sense?
14 Does all of that really make sense? Does it really make
15 sense that he could provide all of this information when he
16 drugged, beat, raped, bludgeoned, and murdered this girl?
17 Does it make sense that he would then disclose the location
18 of the body? In this case, ladies and gentlemen, I submit
19 to you there is no intent. And I submit to you that Edward
20 Bonilla may be guilty of involuntary manslaughter or he may
21 not be guilty at all. Thank you.

22 THE COURT: Madam Forelady, ladies and gentlemen, y'all
23 okay? Need a bathroom break?

24 FOREPERSON: Were fine.

25 THE COURT: Raise your hand if you need something.

1 Mr. Sorenson?

2 AST. SOL. SORENSON: Thank you. May it please the
3 Court, Your Honor?

4 THE COURT: Yes, sir.

5 AST. SOL. SORENSON: It's hard to imagine, ladies and
6 gentlemen, how what Edward Bonilla did to this young lady
7 back on April 4, 2015. Could it be any more malicious, any
8 more evil, any more devoid of social duty. I submit to you
9 his actions were. But if you listen to him on that witness
10 stand yesterday, it's all her fault. Is it her fussing at
11 him? Her ranting? She ended up somehow hours later
12 practically nude, tied up with electrical tape, and buried
13 in a shallow grave 30 minutes away from home. But that's
14 all of her fault. And I submit to you, ladies and
15 gentlemen, if you believe that tale that he spun yesterday,
16 if you believe that, then I'm sorry for wasting your time.
17 Find him not guilty. Because if that's what happened, he's
18 not guilty. But I submit, for to you to get to that point,
19 you have to ignore almost all of the evidence that you
20 heard. And that's why I want to talk to you; just spend a
21 few minutes this morning talking to you about.

22 I want to start with Dr. Batalis, the pathologist. And
23 if you remember the defendant's story, I mean, I asked him
24 this multiple times to make sure I had it clear in my head,
25 he never struck Ashley Pegram with his hands, fists, kicked;

1 never struck her with any weapon; never took her and slammed
2 her head on anything. The only thing that he says that he
3 did where she could of had any injury occur to her was him
4 bumping her with that car when he backed up. And you've got
5 the pictures of the back of the car. There's no damage to
6 the back of the car consistent with him having knocked
7 somebody down to the point where it would've caused physical
8 injury to have her bleeding from her head. He said
9 initially in his testimony with Mr. Hilton that she was
10 trying to headbutt him. I clarified that also. Trying to
11 headbutt him; never at any point in time did she strike him
12 with her head when he says he was trying to restrain her in
13 that bear hug from behind. He didn't have any injuries to
14 his face from her slamming her head back on him?

15 Look at Dr. Batalis's testimony. And keep in mind,
16 part of his testimony he was unable ultimately to really
17 come to conclusion as to what the specific cause of death
18 was to her, yet again, because of his action. Because he
19 buried her out in the woods for five weeks. Okay. But what
20 was Dr. Batalis able to tell us? Contusions to her
21 forehead, the back of her head, the left side of her head,
22 fracture to her -- I'm not saying that right, but I think
23 it's thyroid cartilage I believe is what he said --
24 potentially some injury to her mouth but we was unable to
25 tell a hundred percent whether that was or not. And he

1 want's to tell you and get up here in his closing and say
2 that none of that is consistent; that Dr. Batalis's
3 testimony was not consistent with her being beaten multiple
4 times. I submit to you, that testimony is inconsistent with
5 what he says happened. It's totally consistent with the
6 other evidence that she was beaten multiple times. And I'm
7 going to get to the van in a minute. So remember, all he
8 says he did was put her in a bear hug from behind. And then
9 he can't remember if he had his arm up around here or if he
10 had his hand over her mouth. How was she injured then? I
11 mean, I suppose he's trying to say that basically he just
12 suffocated her. But how does she have any physical injury
13 to her if that's how he killed her?

14 Let's move on and look at what else Dr. Batalis tells
15 us about her clothing when she gets there, okay. She's got
16 the bra and part of her shirt that are basically are kind of
17 up around the upper part of her body that are torn. No
18 pants; no underwear. No pants; no underwear. And that's
19 consistent with the testimony from Detective Scott who was
20 out there when she was removed from the shallow grave. The
21 defendant and his story, this is his explanation for all of
22 that, all right. The shirt and the bra are somehow torn
23 when he's initially putting her in the van. Okay. And then
24 his story is that the pant and her underwear somehow when he
25 is dragging her -- and I'm going to talk a lot more about

1 this in a little while -- when he's dragging her out into
2 the woods to bury her, that her jeans and her underwear
3 somehow are totally pulled off and removed entirely from her
4 body. I mean, ladies and gentlemen, when you were selected
5 the other day as jurors because myself and Mr. Hilton felt
6 that you were reasonable people with common sense. That
7 common sense hadn't left when you came to court; still here
8 today. Does that appeal to your common sense? That if
9 you're dragging somebody through the words that they are
10 literally are going to lose their pants and their underwear.
11 And, you know, he makes a big deal about, you know, he goes
12 all the way back and tries to -- and finds where this
13 incident happened to collect one of her shoes that has
14 fallen off. Yet he doesn't bother to go pick up the pants
15 and put them in the grave.

16 And then Mr. Hilton makes a big deal about, you know,
17 they targeted it and they found her out there. And, you
18 know, they didn't bother looking for anything else out
19 there. They were out in the woods for two days looking for
20 her; for two days. They go out there that Friday evening
21 and they're looking. They go back out Saturday morning with
22 two dogs looking. Two dogs that are able to find her buried
23 in the ground, and you're telling me they wouldn't come
24 across a pair of jeans that would've been, what, 20 yards
25 away? Does that appeal to your common sense? Or is there

1 another explanation for why she didn't have jeans and
2 underwear on? And I'm going to get to that in a little
3 while. But yet during all of this also, something else.
4 And he's dragging her through the woods; tangling on stuff
5 to the point where it's pulling her clothing off of her;
6 pulling her clothing off of her. And if he's pulling her
7 this way so her jeans are coming off, well, how come her
8 shirt and her bra are up wrapped around her neck for one
9 thing, and having been torn off of her also? Because they
10 were already torn according to his testimony. The other
11 thing, she still has her glasses with her. Does that appeal
12 to your common sense? Given everything that he says that
13 that young woman was doing, kicking, thrashing, swatting at
14 him to the point where he had to grab her in a bear hug and
15 she's throwing her head around trying to headbutt him. And
16 he's moving her from place to place to place and then
17 dragging her through the woods to the point where she's
18 losing clothing, and she still has got her glasses with her
19 while he's burying her? Does that make sense?

20 Then the last thing with Dr. Batalis, the thing that,
21 and part of it is just, to be honest with you, I just don't
22 think he can possibly come up with a plausible explanation
23 that makes any sense whatsoever. That's State's Exhibit 101
24 and 102. I'm going to talk about them one at a time.
25 State's Exhibit No. 101, the tape that Dr. Batalis testified

1 was around her neck. What is his explanation for this? You
2 think back when he testified yesterday. The gist I got out
3 of it was that when he was putting her, took her out of the
4 trunk of his vehicle, the trunk of this vehicle, put her on
5 the side of the road. Maybe that's where he put her
6 initially. I have no idea. I heard that for the first time
7 yesterday. Obviously, he had to move her from the trunk to
8 the van at some point in time. But at that point in time
9 that he sees she's bleeding -- I have no doubt she's
10 bleeding at that point in time. There's blood found in the
11 trunk of that Sonata. I submit to you it's from him
12 assaulting her, and nothing else but from his assault of
13 her. Okay. And what is his explanation for how this ends
14 up wrapped around her neck? And the gist I got out of it
15 was that he takes a plastic -- and he described it as
16 basically a grocery bag. You can go to Publix, Harris Teeter,
17 bag your groceries in it. Plastic grocery bag. And he puts
18 it over her head I assume to make sure she doesn't bleed
19 inside the work van, I guess. But he never really -- the
20 gist I got out of that. And then uses the black electrical
21 tape to wrap around the bag to hold it in place over her
22 head.

23 Okay. That's fine and dandy. I mean, you know, if
24 that's what he did, that's fine. But what is inconsistent
25 with that when she is found? You know, they get to the

1 autopsy and Dr. Batalis -- and you've had it here. And yet
2 again, goes back to using your common sense. You ever tried
3 putting tape on one of those bags and getting it off? It
4 doesn't come off. The bags tear; the plastic ends up all
5 stuck to the tape, ends all glued together. There's no
6 grocery bag -- I mean, because he says that ultimately he
7 ends up taking that bag off of her head before he goes and
8 buries her. I don't know why he would bother doing that,
9 but that he did. He tears the bag off of her. But there
10 should be remnants of that plastic bag still on this tape
11 and there's not. And there's not because I submit to you
12 that's not what happened. The other way we know that's not
13 what happened is because if he did that, there shouldn't be
14 any blood in the van at all. Her blood shouldn't be on the
15 floor of the van, shouldn't be on the items in the van, sure
16 as heck shouldn't be up on the ceiling of the van. We'll
17 talk about that shortly.

18 So the black tape around her neck; State's Exhibit No.
19 102. You'll have this back in the jury room so you can look
20 at it little closer. Remember Dr. Batalis's testimony when
21 he got to her, when he did the autopsy on her, I believe it
22 was on May 10th, the tape was still wrapped around her right
23 wrist. And it was a piece of her clothing still on her
24 right wrist, and the tape was around that clothing on her
25 right wrist. Her left wrist was basically nothing but a

1 skeleton at that point in time. And you'll see that -- I
2 mean, there's two loops in here. I mean, you can clearly
3 see that when you move it around and look at it. Two loops
4 that I submit when she was put in the ground, her hands were
5 bound behind her back consistent with the position her arms
6 were in when she was uncovered. And ultimately, one had a
7 slipped off of her left wrist when the skin and all had
8 basically decomposed. What is the possible, possible,
9 reason for this? Remember his testimony yesterday? You
10 know, he testifies initially on direct examination, and
11 Mr. Hilton goes, has him kind of go through what happened.
12 He even said a word -- he tells us about, you know, why he
13 put this around her neck. He doesn't say a word about this.
14 Doesn't say a word about this. I submit to you that he
15 doesn't because, you know, he's had, what? A year and a
16 half to come up with something. And still haven't been able
17 to come up with a plausible explanation for how this tape
18 got around her wrists, why it got around her wrists, that
19 makes any sense and in anyway fits into that story that he
20 told you yesterday. And Mr. Hilton starts, you know,
21 basically just trying to pull it out of him. And the best
22 he ever got was I don't really know; I mean, maybe I did it
23 as the same time as the tape around her neck. Don't know
24 why I did it; don't really know if I did it. Does that make
25 any sense?

1 Let's move on and talk a little bit about the vehicle.
2 About the vehicle being the van; specifically, Sergeant
3 Mullis's testimony. And you're going to have all of these
4 photographs back there. And I guess the first thing I want
5 to address, Mr. Hilton had kind of brought up, you know,
6 some of the tests, the pictures -- you got all these
7 pictures. You can look at them. And some of them maybe are
8 not as bright as blue as the other ones.. Disregard them
9 then. Pretend they weren't -- if it's easy to look at it
10 that way. The fact of the matter, based on his testimony,
11 there shouldn't be any of her blood in that van, okay.
12 There shouldn't be any of her blood in that van. But we
13 know there is because of the DNA report. We know there's
14 blood; a pretty large pool of it in there. And we know
15 conclusively one in -- I forgot what the number was on it;
16 something trillion or quadrillion or something, her blood.
17 And then more importantly, State's Exhibit 69 and 77, based
18 on his story, based on his story, there's absolutely no
19 reason Ashley Pegram's blood should be on the ceiling of
20 that van; should be on the ceiling of that van. Not only
21 her blood -- and this is -- and you know, Sergeant Mullis
22 has had some training. He's gone through, obviously, more
23 training than any of us has had in this field. When you
24 look at it and listen to his testimony, 90 percent of it --
25 95 percent of it, just common sense. You got those

1 photographs, and you heard his explanation. I mean, how he
2 can tell what he's looking at, cast off; looking at linear
3 patterns.

4 It's not too hard to imagine, I mean, if you dipped a
5 stick in a substance and flipped it, something maybe you can
6 see going that way. When you come back, there's still
7 something on the stick or whatever it is that you're
8 swinging, it's going to leave a linear pattern coming that
9 way. It's clear as day in these pictures. Not only is it
10 clear as day, but they, you know, they tested one of those,
11 one of the spots in that linear pattern. And there's one --
12 let me get my numbers right here -- one in 510 quadrillion.
13 That's 16 zeros that that's her blood in that pattern. I
14 mean, ladies and gentlemen, there is nothing, nothing,
15 nothing that Edward Bonilla told you yesterday that can
16 explain how her blood got up in that cast-off pattern.
17 Remember he testified I never struck her in that vehicle; I
18 never hit her or did anything to her in that vehicle other
19 than putting a bag around her head, putting her in that van,
20 and then taking her out to Harleyville. What is it
21 consistent with though?

22 Remember Sergeant Mullis's testimony is consistent with
23 multiple, multiple blows. First of all, the donor, the
24 person who is bleeding, producing the blood who has got to
25 be bleeding to start with, is consistent with multiple

1 blows, multiple linear lines going basically up the wall on
2 to the ceiling. And the other thing he said is consistent
3 with, it's just really common sense when you look at it, is
4 when you look at those pictures of the stain right above,
5 those are almost consistent with 90-degree angles. Which
6 means that the person that is swinging, that is swinging,
7 he's basically right below -- right below where that pattern
8 is left. If you look at State's 29, you know, that pattern
9 is basically right above the passenger wheel well, okay;
10 right below that passenger wheel well. And it consisted of
11 -- and the pattern is going -- so you've got be facing into
12 the van because the pattern is coming up this way; it's not
13 going that way. It's coming up this way ending and then
14 coming back down. Which means that person has to be in the
15 vehicle basically around the wheel well. So when he hits
16 the top of that swing, that blood is going basically at a
17 90-degree angle and hitting the ceiling. To do that is
18 totally inconsistent with anything that man told from that
19 witness stand yesterday. But as I said, totally consistent
20 with him -- and I don't know if, you know -- and we'll never
21 know a hundred percent the order of how things transpired
22 and what exactly happened, unfortunately, to that young
23 lady. But what I do know is that at some point in time in
24 that van he started beating her again. Whether he got her
25 in there and realized that she was still alive, still moving

1 around? Whether he just wanted to just make sure she was
2 dead? I don't know. But he started beating her with some
3 object. I don't know if it was a can of stain. I don't
4 know if it was a board. I don't know if he used his fists.
5 But he started beating her was something, and I submit to
6 you -- and Mr. Hilton said that that was the thing that kind
7 of proved that didn't happen was the pathologist's
8 testimony. And maybe we listened to two different
9 pathologists testify; I don't know. You remember Dr.
10 Batalis testified that the injuries that he found were
11 consistent with multiple blunt force trauma; forehead, back
12 of the head, and I believe he said left side -- potentially
13 even that injury to her throat could be from a
14 strangulation, could be from a blow also. And, ultimately,
15 the only explanation, because as I said you know, just like
16 the tape around the wrist, Edward Bonilla doesn't have an
17 explanation for the blood on the ceiling. We're supposed to
18 believe it's from him trowing the bag back in; throwing the
19 bag back in. Does that make any sense? First of all, it
20 doesn't explain how it ends up where it is with multiple
21 linear patterns. And again, use your common sense.

22 And ultimately, you'll notice, one of the things that
23 kind of struck me early on when I first started looking at
24 this case, you know, they don't find that van. I mean, it's
25 what? The 15th, so it's 11 days later. I was like, man,

1 why didn't you do a better job cleaning up in there? I
2 mean, it just didn't make any sense. I mean, how -- you
3 know, all that blood that is found in there; you know, stain
4 on the ceiling. And he's probably -- and I'm sure he wasn't
5 thinking all of this through when he decided to use that van
6 to move her that day. But his problem is, you know, when he
7 got her out of there, and you heard law enforcement say, you
8 know, when they first looked in that the van and you open it
9 up; you got the pictures, I mean there's red and brown
10 stains everywhere. I mean, it looks like, you know, it
11 could have been a bloodbath that went on in there or it
12 could just be, you know, that empty bucket of stain went all
13 over. He's got the same dilemma now when he gets back that
14 day, that Saturday, and he spends that day I assume cleaning
15 up his momma's car which is why, you know, the only blood
16 that is found is traces of it around the edges of the trunk;
17 also explains why my momma had to go rent a car at eleven
18 o'clock Saturday morning. But he's got the same dilemma;
19 that Saturday he's going to look in that van and try to
20 figure out how do I clean up. You know, it's a messy work
21 van to start with. It's going to look real weird if I'm
22 returning it and suddenly, you know, all put back together
23 or organized and cleaned out and pressure washed inside. So
24 maybe he does try to clean up some. I don't know. But
25 obviously there's dots and stuff that are blood, that are

1 not blood, everywhere. He's got that same dilemma as not
2 knowing what's blood and how much, I mean, without going
3 overboard trying to clean. So it becomes obvious that he's
4 cleaned it for a reason.

5 And the other mistake he made is something I thought.
6 If you look at the pictures, it's like good lord. I mean,
7 that is so obvious. How on earth do you not realize that?
8 He was somehow saying about his driving the other day. You
9 know, you get in your vehicle. The one place you really --
10 I mean, you see things on the floor of your vehicle, you see
11 the stuff on your dashboard, your center console. And one
12 place he never really look is up. And I submit to that that
13 was his, you know, unfortunately, his mistake. He gets back
14 in that van, the one place, you know, he's not familiar with
15 cast-off. So the one place he never thinks to really look
16 to see if there's an old stain of blood on back of the
17 board; it's right above his head.

18 And the last thing that kind of addresses his testimony
19 that I want to talk about that just doesn't make sense and
20 ultimately I submit to you doesn't prove to you he's not
21 telling you the truth, is look at the time, okay. We know
22 -- you know, we got some times that we know for sure. We
23 know that they were leaving the Sunoco parking lot at 12:12
24 in the morning. We know from his phone records that he is
25 back over in the vicinity of her home between 12:30 and 1:02

1 I think it is in the morning. And he's ultimately back on
2 Ashley Phosphate at 1:21; back over at Ashley Phosphate and
3 Rivers. And he has gone from the Sunoco -- he's gone from
4 the Sunoco back over to the vicinity of her home and is back
5 over past College Park. So back over, kind of closer now,
6 to his home in a little over an hour. A little over an
7 hour. And I'll talk to you in a little while about what I
8 submit to you what that was time for him to do. I submit it
9 does not jive with the whole time frame he gave you
10 yesterday.

11 But he says he drops her body off on the side of the
12 road and then goes driving around. And I said, that may be
13 true. Obviously, he had to have moved that body at some
14 point in time from the trunk of that car into the van. I'm
15 not sure if that's something you would do in an apartment
16 complex parking lot or something you might do on a frontage
17 road. But we do know that at two-something in the morning
18 he is seen, that work van is seen, coming and going by
19 Trident Tech from the direction of his home. And then seven
20 minutes later, it's coming back by. I submit to you that's
21 when he would've picked up her body. Her body is now in
22 that van about 2:40 something in the morning. And then he
23 starts doing some other things. And I'm going to talk about
24 that in a minute. Then at 6:12 you see that van going by
25 Trident Tech again, and it's going away from his home. And

1 I submit to you that is when he is on his way out to
2 Harleyville. At 6:12 in the morning he is basically near
3 his apartment. His phone records, and we heard this
4 testimony from Detective Smith, that his phone records at
5 6:42, between 6:42 and 7:12 in the morning, so 30 minutes to
6 get from there here; pretty reasonable. And then he is in
7 the vicinity of Harleyville. His phone is pinging,
8 updating, marking him in Harleyville 30 minutes; 30 minutes,
9 6:42 to 7:12 in the morning.

10 And look back at his testimony yesterday. What did
11 Edward Bonilla tell us that he did when he got out there to
12 Harleyville? First of all, he finds the location that he's
13 never been to before, not familiar with that area. He says
14 he drove, and I think if I remember correctly, he said that
15 he had ran into a neighborhood initially and then turned
16 back around and then ultimately ends up parking on the side
17 of the road; takes her out of the van; puts her on the side
18 of the road. Takes the van, for some reason, and go moves
19 behind a gate in businesses that is out there. And then
20 comes back, drags her 100 to 200 yards into the woods, where
21 supposedly losing her pants on the way that he's talked
22 about, carrying a board, carrying a board. He said a board
23 just like the hardwood flooring boards that were in the back
24 of that van. He gets her out there. He finds an area. He
25 digs a hole. Now, I'll give Mr. Hilton that. You know,

1 maybe that hole wasn't two and a half feet deep; let's just
2 say it was a foot deep. He still manages to dig a hole with
3 a board through this vegetation, 5 feet long, a couple of
4 feet wide, a foot or so deep. Gets her in the hole; covers
5 her back up; traces out of the woods; goes and gets the van
6 and he's out of Harleyville by 7:12 in the morning. Does
7 that make any sense? Does that make any sense? There's not
8 doubt about it that he did that. He did what I just talked
9 about in that 30 minutes. I submit to you do you do that
10 alone? He didn't do that with a board. He didn't do that
11 with board. If you took me to the beach right and gave me a
12 board and told me to dig a hole that big, I'm not sure I
13 could do it in 30 minutes at the beach, let alone in the
14 middle of the woods; in the middle of spring with all this
15 vegetation.

16 We know that he talked to his girlfriend on the phone
17 at five o'clock. No telling who else he went and saw or
18 picked up in between. If you look at the video, it's 6:12,
19 there's another vehicle on that road riding right in front
20 of him. When he comes out, there's a dark vehicle. No idea
21 who it is. Don't know if there's anything connecting this
22 or not. All I know is that what he did in those 30 minutes,
23 he couldn't have done by himself. And, obviously, he's not
24 going to get up on this witness stand and say that, you
25 know, one of his brothers helped him bury that body or

1 something like that. He wouldn't even tell you who he got
2 the marijuana from that night. So you think he's gonna get
3 up there and say if somebody helped him who's complicit in
4 him covering up this crime?

5 And what does he do after that? He says that he goes
6 back by the scene where the accident happened. And he finds
7 her shoe. Okay. Well, I submit to you, and this is my
8 thought of what he's looking for at that point in time,
9 okay. He's looking for her phone. Okay. He's been looking
10 for it. I suspect he's searched her for it by that point in
11 time. And I submit to you, that is the reason why at 3:29
12 in the morning he sends this because he didn't know where
13 the phone as at that point in time. He doesn't know where
14 her phone is. She doesn't have -- remember, this isn't a --
15 they're not texting back and forth on your typical texting.
16 They're using an app on the phone to communicate. These
17 records, when you look at his cell phone records, these are
18 not on it because it's not his text messaging. This is an
19 app that they're using. There's no record that he's on his
20 phone. Okay. So he is worried now that I can't find her
21 phone; don't know where her phone is. And he ultimately
22 finds that out at 9:46 Saturday evening where that phone is
23 when that phone starts sending him messages back asking
24 about what happened to Ashley. But he manages -- but the
25 thing -- I guess I got a little off track there. He somehow

1 manages, this guy now, all right, he has managed to -- and
2 keep in mind, she is driving him around in circles out there
3 according to his testimony. Thirty to 40 minutes, they're
4 driving down roads, turning around, driving down other
5 roads, in an area that he's not real familiar with. Okay.

6 According to him, he'd been to the one time to pick her
7 up earlier that night. But he is somehow able now, hours
8 later after being so upset and throwing up all night, all
9 this stuff going on, to go back and find exactly where this
10 happened. Okay. We're supposed to believe that, okay.
11 That he's so upset but yet that he was able to go right back
12 to where it happened. All right. Five weeks later, he's
13 able to get with his lawyer at the time, and not even taking
14 him out there, but using an iPad to show exactly where he
15 buried this girl's body. And yet we're supposed to believe
16 that he wasn't able to find her house again that night when
17 he's got her in the car to help him, and more importantly,
18 he's got her address in his GPS. That's how he got there
19 the first time. I mean, would that not be the first thing
20 that would come to your head, you know, all right, the way
21 that I got to the house the first time was her giving me her
22 address and me putting it in my GPS and literally listening
23 to the voice telling me where to go. Now I'm trying to take
24 her back and I can't find it. What would be the first thing
25 you would think about doing? Put it back in the GPS. Ask

1 her what's your address, put it in the GPS. But he didn't
2 even have to do that because it was already in there. I
3 submit to you he didn't have to worry about that because he
4 never got to the point where he was taking her back to her
5 home.

6 Let's look just briefly at -- I submit to you the
7 evidence in this case shows what happened. Whether he took
8 that van home that Friday evening at 6:55, starts service
9 messaging with Ashley. And there's no doubt, I mean, he
10 messages her first, on here, "What are you up to? Bored."
11 And basically, you know, she's ultimately the one that
12 suggests let's hang out. There's no question about that.
13 And I'm not -- at no point in time -- if I have, I apologize
14 to you for this -- but at no point in time is anybody
15 suggesting that when he picked her up that night that his
16 intention was to kill her when he picked her up on Friday,
17 April 3rd. Okay. What I submit to you his attention was,
18 he told you, it's his intention with all the women that he's
19 meeting online. Okay. He's got a girlfriend for the
20 day-to-day activities, but he's meeting people on Craigslist
21 and other social media for one purpose and that's to have
22 sex with them. Okay. It's the reason why the tube of
23 Astroglide is in with his little hygiene pack that he keeps
24 in the van with him. He told you that.

25 They stop at the Sunoco after the bonfire. And there's

1 no doubt she's been drinking. There's not doubt that she
2 has some muscle relaxer in her system. And I don't know how
3 that got there. But I do know that it just happens to be an
4 awful strange coincidence, and as I said, you got it in the
5 text messages, that in the two days leading up to this, his
6 girlfriend Jasmine is complaining to him over and over about
7 all the back trouble and shoulder pain that she's having. I
8 do also know, and I got a little different spin on this than
9 Mr. Hilton got out of it, that Ms. Diaz testified that when
10 they got ready to leave, she tried to stop Ashley from
11 taking the bottle with her. Okay. Told her to put it in a
12 cup at least -- take an open container with you. And that
13 Edward wouldn't let her -- didn't want her to get rid of
14 that bottle. She's been drugged. That drug was in that
15 bottle already. And I submit to you, he takes her -- he may
16 go home. I think actually if you do look at all the records
17 that he is pinging at his house briefly. You know, maybe he
18 goes home to, you know, get the Astroglide out of the van.
19 I don't know. And at that point in time, they head back in
20 the direction of her home. And you heard from his
21 testimony, there are a bunch of little dark streets here and
22 there. And I submit to you, at some point in time, he
23 pulled over on one of those streets. Maybe she said she had
24 to go to the bathroom and that's why he picked that area to
25 start with. I submit to you, that's where the assault

1 happened. Whether she resisted; something got out of hand
2 to the point where he had assaulted her, choked her, and she
3 passed out started. Whether he started assaulting her at
4 that point in time, that explains why her pants are off,
5 underwear is off. Explains why her bra is ripped. Her
6 shirt is pulled up around her neck area.

7 And at that point in time, he throws her into the trunk
8 of the Sonata; throws her in the trunk of the Sonata. She
9 might be dead at that point in time; she might be
10 unconscious. We will never know. We will never know. And
11 ultimately ends up at that point in time realizing he needs
12 to get rid of her body. And he starts covering his tracks.
13 It's amazing. I mean, he has -- I mean, this is happening,
14 you know, 12:30, one o'clock in the morning. We know at
15 about 1:21, he's back over, as I said, at Ashley Phosphate
16 and Rivers Avenue. Between 2:35 and 2:42, he's in the work
17 van. And I suspect he probably did leave her on side of the
18 road and went and picked her body up at that point in time.
19 And maybe when he gets back over there, you know, she's
20 moaning. She's moving. He gets her in the van and realizes
21 she's not dead. Strikes her a few more time causing that
22 blood on the ceiling. Driving with her in the van would
23 explain why there's drops of her blood basically all over
24 all of these items in the van. Especially, with her not
25 having a plastic bag around her head. Because that, I

1 submit to you, did not happen. Did not happen. That tells
2 us it didn't happen.

3 He starts covering his tracks. And as I said, you
4 know, he sends the, you know, the message to her phone at
5 3:29 in the morning because he doesn't know where her phone
6 is at that point in time. Doesn't know where so you got to
7 start coming up with in case her phone gets found. And
8 guess what? It did. You know, there's obviously going to
9 potentially be some connection to him on the phone. Texted
10 his work at 4:53. So he's thinking enough to realize, you
11 know, at 4:53 in the morning, I got to let my boss know I'm
12 not going to be in. I tell him I'm throwing up, but it's
13 really got to do with the fact that right now I've got a
14 dead body in the back of his work van. A five-minute phone
15 call to his girlfriend that he didn't even remember until I
16 had a tell him about it in the phone records. A five-minute
17 phone call with her in the middle of all of this going on.
18 You know, she sends him a text -- tries to call him and then
19 sends him a text at 5:46, 5:47 in the morning. He calls her
20 back and talks to her for five minutes and doesn't have any
21 idea what that was about. And as I said, you know, at 6:12
22 he's on the way to go bury her in Harleyville.

23 I submit to you, he comes back. I mean, he's got to
24 spend time attempting to clean out the trunk of the Sonata.
25 We see those pictures. I mean, the blood is basically --

1 there's a little bit of trace blood that's found around the
2 edges of the thing. He's got to have time to clean the
3 interior of that trunk better. And that yet again would
4 explain why at 11:00 a.m. his mom has to go rent a vehicle.
5 Does that make any sense? You go rent a car to go run your
6 errands when you have a vehicle. He didn't seem to have any
7 problem driving that vehicle all over that night. But yet
8 the following morning, she's got to go rent a vehicle from
9 Enterprise to run her errands. Does that make any sense?
10 And then his lies start. Okay. Well, actually, kind of
11 started, I guess, at three, three something in the morning.
12 But then something happens that night. And I don't know,
13 maybe he was hoping, you know, hadn't heard back. Nobody
14 had contacted him all day on Saturday; hadn't heard back
15 anything, you know, didn't get a response back on the phone
16 or anything like that. And then his worse fears are
17 realized that night. And he still has got that work van.
18 And I don't know, maybe he planned on Sunday getting back in
19 there and trying to clean it up little more. Because, you
20 know, they're closed on Sunday.

21 But then the worse thing happens for him. At 9:46 he
22 gets a message over this Kik app from Brandy, "Where is
23 Ashley? She hasn't been home since she left with you.
24 Police are involved now. You're the last person to see
25 her." And she goes on and I ask about this, and you'll have

1 it. I mean, she starts using some language with him as I
2 can imagine how she was feeling at that point in time with
3 her little sister being missing. Well, he doesn't respond
4 to any of that. Look at the phone records; they start
5 trying to call him. They're calling him from that phone.
6 They're calling him from Brandy's phone. They're calling
7 from Ashley's daughter Hayley's phone. And he finally
8 answers. He answers at nine -- 10:28. He finally picks up.
9 They've left him voice messages. You'll see where, if you
10 look on his phone records, where he's checked things;
11 dialing star 86 and listened to the voice messages. Picks
12 up and it's a seven-minute call at 10:28. He knows the gig
13 is up now. That's why at 10:58 he's taking that van back to
14 work with his mom following him in that rented car to pick
15 him up. He knows now that van, you know, those police can
16 come knocking on my door at any time now. And I don't want
17 this van sitting in my apartment complex parking lot.

18 She talks to him two times that night. You'll see at
19 10:28 and again after they talked to law enforcement, filed
20 a missing persons report. He didn't remember any of that.

21 Remember, his testimony initially was that, you know, I got
22 up and saw those messages the next morning; the next
23 morning, Sunday morning. He talks to her two times that
24 night and starts giving his story now that I left her on the
25 side of the record; left her on the side of the road near a

1 Summerville mobile home park. The police contact them;
2 Detective Harris contacts him on the phone on April 6th;
3 gives the same lie. Gives the same lie. Detective Mark
4 calls this him and gets him to come in on April 8th. He
5 gives a statement; still the same lie. And Mr. Hilton wants
6 you to believe and is trying to throw out there that he is
7 cooperating so much with the police. He's giving them all
8 of this information; all of this information. At that point
9 in time, I mean, he knows that they have her phone because
10 the phone is messaging him back. Okay. So they know at
11 that point in time that he was with her. I mean, the
12 message is from Brandy to him. No question about it, they
13 know that he was with her that night. So that's not
14 something new that he's provided. It's information that
15 they knew already. All right. He makes it sound like he's
16 so cooperative by, you know, he's giving them, you know,
17 he's giving them his phone number. Well, I mean, that's in
18 the text messages or that Kik message chat hours earlier
19 before he's even picked Ashley up. His address is in there.
20 The fact that he lived behind Trident Tech out in Hanahan.
21 His phone number. As I said, as I told you earlier, nobody
22 is suggesting that at nine o'clock on Friday evening he was
23 intending on killing Ashley Pegram. I do think he thought
24 he was picking somebody up and at the end of the night he
25 was getting paid back for taking her out and buying her that

1 twelve pack of beer, though.

2 He's ultimately given opportunity after opportunity
3 after opportunity to tell law enforcement that story. He
4 never does. Ladies and gentlemen, as I told you from the
5 outset, if that's what happened then he's not guilty of a
6 crime. I mean, he's guilty of maybe doing something with
7 her body after the fact. But he's not guilty of her
8 homicide if that's what happened. Given opportunity after
9 opportunity to tell the family, to tell law enforcement; and
10 he doesn't. And he ultimately finally does, and Mr. Hilton
11 yet again is throwing this out, this I guess shows why he's
12 not guilty because through his lawyer, law enforcement is
13 contacted and told where her body is. And I'm sure that
14 family is taking some solace in her body being recovered so
15 it can be buried properly. But at the same time, I can't help
16 but think that there was some ulterior motive to that being
17 done through his lawyer Mr. Leiendecker. If you notice, I
18 mean, he didn't allow him to give a statement to the police
19 that day or get all of this tied down back in May of 2015.
20 This is through the lawyer not Mr. Bonilla telling law
21 enforcement this. And I can only kind of guess that, you
22 know, a little bit of the story his former lawyer had
23 involved, you know, I hit her with a car. I mean, if we
24 help you find her body, hopefully we'll find evidence when
25 they do the autopsy that's going to support that; that's

1 going to support your story and then we can maybe try to
2 work this thing out.

3 Well, I can't even imagine the surprise when, you know,
4 the autopsy reports comes back and she's not clothed. She's
5 got multiple injuries to her head. She's got black
6 electrical tape wrapped around her neck and around her
7 wrist. I submit to you not real consistent with basically a
8 car accident where she got a little out of control and after
9 that I had to put her in a bear hug and may have accidentally
10 squeezed her a little too tight. And for five weeks leading
11 up to that, his lies, you know, put that family through what
12 I could only imagine is just absolute hell. Not knowing
13 what happened to their daughter, mother, sister. Not
14 knowing if she was in fact let out on the side of a road;
15 had been drinking and got hit by a car. Dies in some ditch
16 along one of those roads. Got picked up by somebody who is
17 God knows where now. To the point when you heard this, and
18 I asked Mr. Bonilla about this, to the point, you know, you
19 heard Brandy's testimony, it's in the records. I mean, she
20 is -- I mean, he is the one point of contact the she is
21 holding onto for days after this crime to find out what
22 happened to my sister. She's calling him over and over
23 again. She's texting him late at night. You know, still
24 hadn't found her. I mean, you know, reiterate to me what
25 happened. To the point where on the evening of Monday,

1 April 6th, when she was actually -- got to the point where
2 she sent a long text to him apologizing to him for pestering
3 him. Apologizing with a late-night text and the late-night
4 calls. And, you know, his response to that -- I mean, this
5 is a man that knows. I mean, even if you believe his story
6 that he is still responsible for her death, responsible for
7 the fact that they not have found her body, and his response
8 back to her was just thank you. And I apologize as well for
9 my stubbornness. How cold? How malicious? How
10 evil-spirited can you be for what he was putting that family
11 through?

12 The lies started at 3:29 in the morning, April 4th,
13 when he texted her phone and said I'm sorry I left you at
14 that gas station; you were too drunk to handle. His lies
15 continued through that Saturday, April 4th; Sunday, April
16 5th; the sixth, seventh; statement on the eight. The 15th
17 when he still got the gall -- I mean, he's got his boss
18 standing right next to him, and still looks that man in the
19 eye and tells him that I just started working here a couple
20 of days ago. With his boss, knowing that is not the truth,
21 he still can't help himself. His lies I submit to you,
22 ladies and gentlemen, lies that started back on the early
23 morning hours of April 4th of 2015 when he started covering
24 up Ashley Pegram's death. Those lies that I submit to you
25 continued all the way to this courtroom yesterday afternoon.

1 Well, ladies and gentlemen, Mr. Templeton told you
2 earlier and I think the Judge would probably tell you also,
3 you're going to have an opportunity in a few minutes after
4 he charges you on the law, to go back and deliberate, and to
5 reach a verdict. To reach a verdict. And as you were told,
6 you know, the verdict comes from a Latin word that
7 ultimately means to speak the truth. Speak the truth.
8 Something that he has been unable to do for a year and a
9 half now. I submit to you, ladies and gentlemen, the only
10 truthful verdict in this case, the only just verdict in this
11 case, is a verdict that holds Edward Bonilla responsible and
12 accountable for his actions the early morning hours of April
13 4th of 2015. And I submit to you that when you look at all
14 of the evidence in this case, look at his testimony and
15 judge it under the same microscope that you judge every
16 other piece of evidence in this case, the only truthful
17 verdict, the only just verdict, is a verdict of guilty of
18 murder. Thank you.

19 THE COURT: Madam Forelady, ladies and gentlemen, let's
20 take a quick five or ten minute break so you can use the
21 restroom, stretch your legs and we'll come back. My charge
22 is about 10 or 15, and then y'all will have the case.
23 Everybody else remained seated. Don't start liberating,
24 please.

25 (The jury exits the courtroom at 11:03 a.m.)

1 THE COURT: All right. We'll stand at ease. It's
2 eleven o'clock; we'll start back at 11:15.

3 (A short recess is taken at 11:03 a.m. The proceedings
4 resume at 11:17 a.m.)

5 THE COURT: Is the State ready for the jury charge?

6 AST. SOL. SORENSON: Yes, sir.

7 THE COURT: Defense?

8 MR. HILTON: Yes, sir.

9 THE COURT: Bring the jury in.

10 (The jury enters the courtroom at 11:17 a.m.)

11 JURY CHARGE

12 THE COURT: Madam Forelady, ladies and gentlemen of the
13 jury panel, as I go around the state trying cases,
14 particularly in the criminal arena, general sessions court
15 such as this, the charge is sort of broken into two parts.
16 This first part deals with general principles of law that
17 deal with every case in a criminal setting. So let me go
18 through those first. And then the second part of the charge
19 deals with the indictment that is before you here today, the
20 offense of murder and what we call a lesser included offense
21 of involuntary manslaughter and certain defenses to that.

22 The first 4 or 5, 10 minutes, will be general charges that
23 deal with all criminal cases, then we go specifically into
24 what we're here on this week.

25 First of all, let me remind you that in this case the

1 defendant has been indicted for the offense of murder. The
2 fact that he's been arrested and charged and indicted in
3 this case for murder that is not evidence in the case and
4 cannot be considered by you as evidence of guilt in the case
5 nor does it create any presumption or inference of guilt.
6 The indictment is simply the formal written document which
7 contains the charge made against the defendant. It's the
8 formal document by way this case is brought into the
9 courtroom. So don't infer anything from the fact that he's
10 been indicted. He has pled not guilty to the indictment.
11 And by pleading not guilty that puts the burden on the State
12 of South Carolina to prove his guilt to you beyond a
13 reasonable doubt. A person charged with committing a
14 criminal offense in our state is never required to prove
15 himself innocent. I charge you that it is an important
16 constitutional rule of law that a defendant in a criminal
17 trial, no matter how serious the charges may be, will always
18 be presumed to be innocent of the crime for which the
19 indictment was issued unless guilt has been proven by
20 evidence satisfying you of that guilt beyond a reasonable
21 doubt.

22 The presumption of innocence does not end when you
23 start your deliberations, but it stays with the defendant
24 throughout the trial until you reach a verdict of guilt
25 based on the evidence satisfying you of that guilt beyond a

1 reasonable doubt. The presumption of innocence is not a
2 mere legal theory. It's not just a legal phrase. It's a
3 substantial constitutional right to which every defendant is
4 entitled unless you the jury are satisfied from the evidence
5 of the defendant's guilt beyond a reasonable doubt. Now,
6 what is a reasonable doubt? Our state Supreme Court has
7 defined it in a number of ways, but the two definitions that
8 we utilize throughout trial in this state is this: A
9 reasonable doubt under the law is the kind of doubt that
10 would cause a reasonable person to hesitate to act. It's
11 the kind of act, the kind of doubt, that would cause a
12 reasonable person to hesitate to act. Prove beyond a
13 reasonable doubt is proof that leaves you firmly convinced
14 of the defendant's guilt; firmly convinced of his guilt.
15 There are very few things in the world that we know with
16 absolute clarity. And in criminal cases, the law does not
17 require proof that overcomes every possible doubt. If based
18 on your consideration of the evidence you are firmly
19 convinced that the defendant is guilty of the crime charged
20 then you must find him guilty. If on the other hand you
21 think there's a real possibility that he is not guilty, you
22 must give him the benefit of the doubt and find him not
23 guilty. So those are the two major definitions of
24 reasonable doubt under our law. The kind of doubt that
25 would cause a person to hesitate to act or to firmly

1 convince. Reason is as I just told you.

2 As I told you when we first started, you and I have had
3 different roles to perform during the trial of the case. My
4 role has been to rule on the admissibility of evidence, and
5 my role is to be the judge of the law in the case. I
6 instruct you on what the law is. I give you the law. And
7 you under your oath agree to accept the law as I give it to
8 you. As I told you earlier, if you have some idea about
9 what the law should be and it doesn't agree with what I say,
10 please set aside your personal beliefs and accept the law as
11 I give it to you. I'm giving you the law of the State of
12 South Carolina.

13 On the other side of the coin is you are the judges of
14 the facts in the case as I told you earlier. And obviously
15 your job is much more important than mine. The point of
16 saying that is this: If any time during the trial of this
17 case I have frowned or smiled or yawned or whatever, chew on
18 my glasses, raise my eyebrows, and you think I have some
19 opinion about the facts, please disregard that. I cannot
20 have any opinion about the facts. That is not my job. I
21 try cases all over the state. I hear cases day in and day
22 out. And, you know, sometimes I just have to yawn up here
23 or sometimes I have to smile or frown. Don't infer anything
24 from any of my actions on the bench to think that I have had
25 any opinion about the facts in this case. I cannot have any

1 opinion. That is solely your job. Obviously, it is your
2 job and duty to analyze the evidence and determine what
3 evidence convinces you of its truth.

4 Now, to carry out your job as a judge of the facts, you
5 must determine by necessity the credibility of the witnesses
6 who have testified in this case. Credibility simply means
7 believability. It becomes your duty as jurors to analyze
8 and evaluate the evidence and determine which evidence
9 convinces you of its truth. Please use common sense that
10 you have, experiences that you gained throughout your life
11 in dealing with people, and judging how to determine whether
12 or not that person is telling you the truth. In determining
13 the credibility or the believability of the witnesses who
14 have testified in this case, you have the right to believe
15 one witness over several or several witnesses over one. You
16 may believe a part of the testimony of a witness and
17 disregard the remaining part. You may believe everything a
18 witness says; you don't have to believe a word a witness
19 says. You may consider whether any witness have exhibited
20 to you any interest, bias, prejudice, or other motive in the
21 case. You can also consider the appearance and manner of a
22 witness while on the witness stand. So it is up to you, the
23 12 of you collectively acting as one, to determine who is
24 telling the truth; what is the truth. You determine the
25 believability of the witnesses. And when you determine who

1 is was telling the truth, you take those true facts as you
2 find them to be, and then you apply those facts to the law
3 as I give it to you. And then you'll be in a position to
4 render a true and just verdict. As has been said to you on
5 a number of occasions in the courtroom, verdict, the word
6 verdict, comes from Latin meaning to speak the truth.

7 During the trial of the case, we had a couple or a
8 number of witnesses that I qualified as an expert and
9 allowed them to give opinion testimony the field of their
10 expertise. Our rules of evidence ordinarily do not permit
11 witnesses to testify as to opinions or conclusions. There
12 is an exception called the expert witness exception. A
13 witness who by education and experience have become expert
14 in some art, science, profession or calling may state an
15 opinion as to relevant and material matter which the witness
16 claims to be an expert in the reason for his opinion. You
17 should consider any expert opinion received in evidence in
18 this case like any other evidence, give it the weight you
19 think it deserves. If you decide the opinion of an expert
20 witness is not based on sufficient education and experience
21 or if you conclude that the reasons given in support of the
22 opinion are not sound, that the opinion is outweighed by
23 other evidence, you can disregard that opinion entirely. An
24 expert witness's testimony is to be given no greater weight
25 than that of any other witness simply because he was

1 qualified as an expert. And further, you're not required to
2 accept an expert's opinion even though it's not
3 contradicted.

4 Madam Forelady, ladies and gentlemen, that is the
5 general charge dealing with general propositions of law.
6 What we will do now turn to the offense in this case. In
7 this case as I told you, the defendant has been indicted for
8 the offense of murder. Now, there are sort of three levels
9 in murder. There's murder; something called voluntary
10 manslaughter; and something called involuntary manslaughter.
11 Murder is the highest level, and involuntary manslaughter is
12 what we call a lesser included offense. So we'll talk about
13 that in a little bit. But in this case, the defendant has
14 been indicted and brought before you and charged with the
15 offense of murder. The State must prove beyond a reasonable
16 doubt that the defendant killed another person with malice
17 aforethought. The State must prove to you beyond a
18 reasonable doubt that the defendant killed another person
19 with malice aforethought. Malice is defined by our courts
20 as hatred, ill will, or hostility towards another person.

21 It is the intentional doing of a wrongful act without just
22 cause or excuse and with an intent to inflict injury or
23 death. I'll say it again. Malice is hatred, ill will, or
24 hostility towards another person. It is the intentional
25 killing doing of a wrongful act without just cause or excuse

1 and with an intent to inflict an injury or death. Malice
2 aforethought -- I'm adding aforethought to it; that's one
3 word -- does not require that malice to exist for any
4 particular time before the act is committed. But malice
5 must exist in the mind of the defendant just before and at
6 the time the act is committed. Therefore it must be a
7 combination of an evil intent previously formed or at the
8 time of the event and the act itself. Malice aforethought
9 may be expressed or inferred. The terms expressed and
10 inferred do not mean different kinds of malice, but merely
11 the manner in which malice may be shown to exist that is
12 either by direct evidence or by inference from the facts and
13 circumstances which are proved. Express malice is shown
14 when a person speaks words which express hatred or ill will
15 for another or when the person prepared beforehand to do the
16 act which was later accomplished. Malice may also be
17 inferred. Inferred means you go outside, you see all of
18 these mud puddles, you can infer it rained just shortly
19 before that. That's inferred. Malice may be inferred from
20 conduct showing a total disregard for human life.

21 Now, ladies and gentlemen, you will first consider
22 whether or not the State is proven to you beyond a
23 reasonable doubt the elements of murder. And you will have
24 a verdict form back in the jury room you fill out when you
25 make your decision. So you will first consider whether or

1 THE COURT: State ready to receive the verdict?

2 AST. SOL. SORENSON: Yes, Your Honor.

3 THE COURT: Defendant ready?

4 THE DEFENDANT: Yes, Your Honor.

5 THE COURT: All right. Let me remind everyone in the
6 courtroom that you have been an extraordinary audience this
7 week. You have maintained your composure, and your behavior
8 has been exemplary. Let me forewarn everyone, I have no
9 idea what the verdict is. Obviously, it's going to be one
10 or the other. If you do not think you can control your
11 emotions, I'm going to ask you to leave now. If there's any
12 outbreak of emotions, any untoward behavior, you will be
13 immediately detained and removed from the courtroom and
14 subject to contempt of court. So if you do not think that
15 you can hear the verdict without controlling yourself, fair
16 warning, please leave now.

17 (The jury enters the courtroom at 1:37 p.m.)

18 THE COURT: Madam Forelady, have y'all reached a
19 verdict?

20 FOREPERSON: We have, Your Honor.

21 THE COURT: If you would pass it to the bailiff,
22 please.

23 THE CLERK: The State of South Carolina, the County of
24 Dorchester, the State of South Carolina versus Edward
25 Bonilla in the Court of General Sessions, case number

1 2015-GS-18-0606, as to the charge of murder, we the jury
2 unanimously find the defendant Edward Primo Bonilla guilty.
3 Signed by the foreperson August 11, 2016.

4 THE COURT: Anything for the jury before we recess by
5 the defendant?

6 MR. HILTON: We would just ask they be polled.

7 THE COURT: Thank you. What that means is, ladies and
8 gentlemen, the clerk will ask a question, is this your
9 verdict and if it's still your verdict, please respond.

10 THE CLERK: Juror number 22, if you would please stand.
11 Was this your verdict in the jury room and is it still your
12 verdict?

13 JUROR: Yes.

14 THE CLERK: Thank you. Juror 50?

15 JUROR: Guilty.

16 THE CLERK: Juror 109?

17 JUROR: Yes.

18 THE CLERK: Juror 137?

19 JUROR: Yes.

20 THE CLERK: Juror 16?

21 JUROR: Yes.

22 THE CLERK: Juror 20?

23 JUROR: Yes.

24 THE CLERK: Juror 53?

25 JUROR: Yes.

1 This situation, that situation, it will be part of me
2 forever. I just don't have any, you know -- I just want to
3 say that I'm sorry for what happened. It was never
4 intended. I never went out the night of April 3, 2015, to
5 harm anybody. At no point did I ever intend to harm her.
6 It just -- it was just a reaction to a situation that I know
7 I should've just either left or called the cops originally.
8 It was just a bad situation, Your Honor. And I'm sorry that
9 it ended up taking the life of another human being. That's
10 all I can really say, Your Honor. I'm sorry.

11 THE COURT: Mr. Sorenson?

12 AST. SOL. SORENSON: May it please the Court, Your
13 Honor? As you had heard earlier, Mr. Bonilla does not have
14 any prior convictions. I had a chance to check with
15 Ashley's family. They're seated in the first two rows of
16 the courtroom, Your Honor. They've been here all week; her
17 sister, her mother, her daughter Haley. She has two younger
18 children also that have not been in court. Other family
19 members and friends. Her father has got some health issues
20 that has unfortunately precluded him from being able to
21 attend court this week. They do not wish to address the
22 Court, Your Honor. I think they are all fairly emotional,
23 but just had a few comments they wanted me to kind of convey
24 to Your Honor. As you heard, Ashley at the time of her
25 death was 28. She was a few weeks shy of her 29th

1 birthday. She did have three children. And so they wanted
2 you to know that. And ultimately, Your Honor, I mean, this
3 truly is just an absolutely senseless act. And we would --
4 they would ask me to ask Your Honor, and I would ask you on
5 behalf of the State of South Carolina, to impose the maximum
6 possible penalty that you can impose on Mr. Bonilla for his
7 actions that night into the morning of April 4th.

8 (Brief pause.)

9 THE COURT: Well, first of all, let me say this: I've
10 been involved in the legal business a long time; 30 years as
11 a lawyer, going on 13 now as a judge. And to hear the
12 description of this being a senseless death is probably as
13 descript as you can get. I know defense counsel says that
14 the defendant has been most respectable to him, but
15 certainly he was not anywhere near respectful to this young
16 lady who died in his hands. He says he didn't intend to
17 harm her, but the evidence was overwhelmingly contrary to
18 that. I commend the jury for their courage in seeing
19 through the fabricated story, in my opinion, that was
20 presented by the defendant. I found his testimony to be
21 highly incredible, void of any truth. It was a brutal way
22 for this young lady to die and even more brutal for the way
23 she was treated after her death: bound by the neck and arms,
24 stripped of her clothes, thrown on the side of the road,
25 then picked up once again, dragged through the woods and

1 buried in a shallow grave in such a manner that she became
2 available for whatever wild animals were in the area. The
3 suffering that you put this family through, no family should
4 have to endure what you did to them.

5 THE DEFENDANT: I agree with that.

6 THE COURT: If there's a lesson to be learned at all in
7 this case, I hope the young people and anyone else who uses
8 social media to meet people and to blindly go out with them,
9 knows the inherent dangers that it presents. I hope people
10 will use this case as an example to be more diligent in
11 their background check on people who use media services in
12 this matter. I tried many murder cases, and I've sentenced
13 many people to murder. I've only sentenced two other people
14 to the sentence I'm giving you. The sentence of this Court
15 is that you be committed to the State Department of
16 Corrections for the balance of your natural life. Good
17 luck.

18 MR. HILTON: Thank you, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: All right. At this time, I will ask the
20 deputies to escort the defendant's family out; leave the
21 victim's family here.

22 (Brief pause.)

23 THE COURT: I would ask the victim's family to please
24 stay with us a few minutes. I'll ask the law enforcement
25 officials to determine when -- I'm not saying anything.

WITNESSES

A Martin

Dorchester County Sheriff
15-003518

ARREST WARRANT NUMBER
2015A1810300410

Arrested: May 6, 2015

ACTION OF GRAND JURY

TRUE BILL

Dan Z Riley
Foreperson of Grand Jury
Date: December 3, 2015

VERDICT

Foreperson of Petit Jury
Date:

DOCKET NO. 2015GS18-0606

The State of South Carolina
County of DORCHESTER

COURT OF GENERAL SESSIONS

December 7, 2015 TERM

THE STATE
vs.

Edward Primo Bonilla

Indictment for

Murder

SC Code: 16-3-10

2016 AUG 12 PM 2:40

After being fully advised as to my legal rights, I hereby waive presentment to the Grand Jury.

Defendant

I
hereby appear in my own proper person
and plead guilty to the within indictment or
to

Defendant

Witness:

C.C.C. PLS. AND G.S.

FILED - RECORDED
2015 DEC -3 PM 2:06
CHERYL GRANHAM
CLERK OF COURT
DORCHESTER COUNTY

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA)
COUNTY OF DORCHESTER)

INDICTMENT
2015GS18-0606

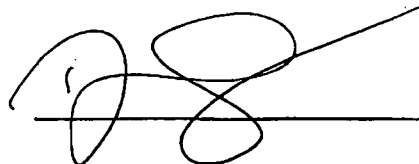
As a Court of General Sessions, convened on December 3, 2015 the Grand Jurors of DORCHESTER County present upon their oath:

MURDER

April 2015

That in Dorchester County on or about ~~May~~ 4, 2015, with malice aforethought, the defendant, Edward Primo Bonilla did kill one Ashley Pegram by means of blunt force trauma. The victim did die as a proximate result thereof. This offense being in violation of the Common Law and Section 16-3-10, of the South Carolina Code of Laws, as amended.

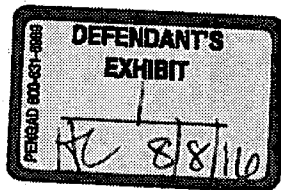
Against the peace and dignity of the State, and contrary to the statute in such case made and provided.



Donald N. Sorenson, Solicitor

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County of Dorchester



SEARCH WARRANT

OCA: 15003518
Date: April 15, 2015
Officer: Detective Andy D. Martin # 75
Dorchester County Sheriff's Office

501A TA

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF Dorchester County

SEARCH WARRANT

OCA 15003518

TO ANY BONDED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR COUNTY OR OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF:
DORCHESTER.

It is appearing from the attached affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that certain property subject to seizure under provisions of Section 17-13-140, 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina, as amended, is located on the following premises:

DESCRIPTION OF PREMISES (PERSON, PLACE, OR THING)
TO BE SEARCHED

SEE AFFIDAVIT.

Now, therefore, you are hereby authorized to search the subject premises for the property described below and to seize such property if found:

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

SEE AFFIDAVIT.

This Search Warrant shall not be valid for more than ten days from the date of issuance

A written inventory of all property seized pursuant to this Search Warrant shall be made to the **ISSUING MAGISTRATE** within ten days from the date of this warrant, such inventory to be signed by the officer executing this warrant, and a copy of such inventory shall be furnished to the person whose premises are searched if demand for such copy is made.

A copy of this Search Warrant shall be delivered to the person in charge of the premises searched at the time of such search if practicable, and, if not, to such persons as soon thereafter as is practicable; in the event the identity of the person in charge is not known or if such person cannot be found after reasonable diligence in attempting to locate the person, a copy shall be attached to a prominent place on such premises.

This 15th day of April 2015

Ba Isma Patton (L.S.)
(Judges Signature)

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF Dorchester

AFFIDAVIT
OCA15003518

Personally appeared before me, one Detective Andy D. Martin who, being duly sworn, says that there is probable cause to believe that certain property, subject to seizure under provisions of Section 17-13-140, 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina, as amended, is located on the following premises in this County:

DESCRIPTION OF PERSON OR PROPERTY SOUGHT

Any and all evidence associated with the disappearance of Ashley Pegram. To include organic and inorganic evidence to include but not limited to touch DNA, blood, semen, photographs, saliva, clothing, shoes, hair, any GPS unit, receipts of locations travelled, notes, ledgers, papers, and electronic equipment. Any item that may have been used to inflict harm upon the person of Ashley Pegram.

DESCRIPTION OF PREMISES (PERSON, PLACE, OR THING) TO BE SEARCHED

2005 Hyundai Sonata V6, bearing South Carolina vehicle registration , VIN# KMHWF35H45A101774. The vehicle is registered to Denise Navarro Dover who resides at Maybeline Road Apt Hanahan SC 29415.

**REASON FOR AFFIANT'S BELIEF THAT THE PROPERTY OR PERSON SOUGHT
IS ON THE SUBJECT PREMISES**

The Dorchester County Sheriff's Office received a missing person report involving Ashley Pegram 28 y/o female. Through investigation it was learned that Ms. Pegram departed her residence, East Steele Street, Summerville SC, on 3 April 2015 at approximately 9:00 PM. According to Pegram's sister, Ms. Pegram was on an internet coordinated date with Edward Primo Bonilla. According to Mr. Bonilla, he picked Ms. Pegram up at her residence in the 2005 Hyundai Sonata that is to be searched. Mr. Bonilla stated he arrived at Ms. Pegram's residence utilizing a GPS device that he had in the vehicle. Mr. Bonilla stated Ms. Pegram was intoxicated and he became aggravated at her and put her out of his vehicle near Winter Drive, Summerville SC around 2:00 AM. When asked by Detectives why he did not drive Ms. Pegram to her house he stated he could not find it.

Detectives obtained video footage from the Sunoco gas station located at 336 College Park Road, Ladson SC, where Pegram was observed entering into the vehicle to be searched at 1:12 AM. Detectives obtained GPS locations from Mr. Bonilla's cell phone which indicated he was not in the Winter Drive area of Summerville at the time he stated he dropped off Ms. Pegram. Records indicate the only time he was in that area was around 12:30 AM, which is before Ms. Pegram was observed at the Sunoco Gas Station. Mr. Bonilla has since stopped cooperating in the investigation. It is the affiant's belief that something harmful has happened to Ms. Pegram. The last known person to see Ms. Pegram was Mr. Bonilla. Mr. Bonilla has provided Detectives with information that has been proven false. Based on this the Affiant is requesting this search warrant to obtain organic and inorganic evidence to ascertain if anything harmful has occurred to Ms. Pegram and whether Mr. Bonilla is involved in her disappearance.

Sworn to and Subscribed before me:

This 15th day of April 2015

Kathleen Patton
 (Judge's Signature)

(L.S.)

[Signature]
 (Affiant) Det. Andy D. Martin

212 Deming Way
 Summerville S.C. 29483

RETURN

PAGE 1 OF 2

OCA 15003518

I, Det. J. Scott, received the attached Search Warrant April 16, 2015 and have executed it as follows:

On April 16, 2015 at 0830 o'clock AM,

I searched the Person of N/A or premises at 2005 Hyundai, Sonata, bearing SC Tag Deming Way
Summerville SC 29483 which is described in the warrant.

I left a copy of the warrant Inside the vehicle (name of person searched or location or premises searched),
 together with a receipt for the items seized.

The following is an inventory of property taken pursuant to the warrant:

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION
J. Scott	(3) Latent Print Cards	Entire Vehicle
	Light in color fiber PP#1	Trunk
J. Scott	Blue in color fiber PP#3	Trunk
	Hair PP#8	

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION
J. Scott	Hair PP#9	Trunk
	(3) fasteners PP#6	
J. Scott	(1) Swab from trunk mat PP#2 unknown stain	Trunk
	(2) Swabs PP#4 red/Brown Stain	

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION
J. Scott	(2) Swabs PP#5 red stain	Trunk
	(2) Swabs PP#7 red stain	
J. Scott	(1) trunk mat	Trunk
	(2) Swab from driver side steering wheel/shifter	Driver side

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION
J. Scott	(2) Swabs from front passenger compartment	Passenger Side
	(2) Swabs rear driver side passenger compartment	Driver side Passenger comp
J. Scott	(2) Swabs from the back passenger compartment	Back Passenger side comp
	Cutting from front windshield with damage	Windshield

This inventory was made in the presence of: Det. Mullis, B. Berg

I swear that this Inventory is a true and detailed account of all the property taken by me pursuant to the warrant.

SWORN to before me this 22nd day of April, 2015

Katherine Patton (L.S.)
 Signature of Judge

J. Scott
 Signature of Officer Executing Warrant

RETURN

627

PAGE 2 OF 2

OCA

15003518

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION
J. Scott	(4) separate paint samples from car	Entire vehicle
B. Mullis	Hair from back seat (car)	Back seat of Hyundai

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION

This inventory was made in the presence of: Det. Mullis, B. Berg
 I swear that this inventory is a true and detailed account of all the property taken by me pursuant to the warrant.

SWORN to before me this 22nd day of April, 2015

J. Scott / Scott
 Signature of Officer Executing Warrant

[Signature] (L.S.)
 Signature of Judge



North Charleston Police Department Consent to Search and/or Seizure

BODY ☐ COMPUTER ☐ PREMISES ☐ VEHICLE ☒

OCA #:

15003518

Date:

4-15-2015

Location:

4221 RIVERS AVE, NORTH CHARLESTON

I, Robert W. Castle Jr
(name of person giving consent)

hereby authorize officer (s)

CID
DCSO/DET. Martin

to conduct a complete search of my

FORD VAN

located at

4221 RIVERS

(Body, Computer, Premises, Vehicle)

(address)

This computer/vehicle has the following identifying information: Make

FORD

Model

Focus

Serial/VIN #

Tag # 1

☒ These officers are authorized by me to remove from my body the following fluids, hair, and substances: RC
(Initials)

☒ These officers are authorized by me to take from my premises my computer, and to duplicate an/or inspect any information, files, images or data which it may contain within it or on any media or storage device associated with it. I also authorize the officers to take from my residence any other property of interest in reference to this investigation that they may desire that is associated with the above listed computer. RC
(Initials)

☒ These officers are authorized by me to take from my premises/vehicle any letters, papers, materials or other property of interest in reference to this investigation which they may desire. RC
(Initials)

I have been advised of my Constitutional Right, not to have a search made of my Vehicle or my property seized. This written permission is being given by me to the above named officer (s), voluntarily and without threats or promises of any kind.

Witnesses

Witnesses

2009-001

2015012137

Signature

Race

Gender

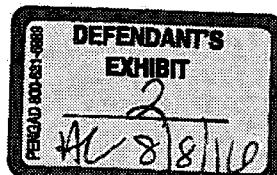
DOB

(Required for Body Consent Only)

Social Security Number

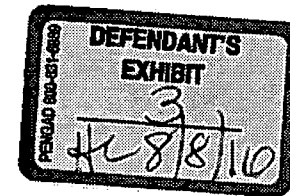
(Required for Body Consent Only)

02-09



STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

County of Dorchester



SEARCH WARRANT

OCA: 15003518
Date: April 15, 2015
Officer: Detective Andy D. Martin # 75
Dorchester County Sheriff's Office

Ford
VAN

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA
COUNTY OF Dorchester County

SEARCH WARRANT

OCA 15003518

TO ANY BONDED LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER OF THIS STATE OR COUNTY OR OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF:
DORCHESTER.

It is appearing from the attached affidavit that there are reasonable grounds to believe that certain property subject to seizure under provisions of Section 17-13-140, 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina, as amended, is located on the following premises:

DESCRIPTION OF PREMISES (PERSON, PLACE, OR THING)
TO BE SEARCHED

SEE AFFIDAVIT.

Now, therefore, you are hereby authorized to search the subject premises for the property described below and to seize such property if found: _____

DESCRIPTION OF PROPERTY

SEE AFFIDAVIT.

This Search Warrant shall not be valid for more than ten days from the date of issuance.

A written inventory of all property seized pursuant to this Search Warrant shall be made to the **ISSUING MAGISTRATE** within ten days from the date of this warrant, such inventory to be signed by the officer executing this warrant, and a copy of such inventory shall be furnished to the person whose premises are searched if demand for such copy is made.

A copy of this Search Warrant shall be delivered to the person in charge of the premises searched at the time of such search if practicable, and, if not, to such persons as soon thereafter as is practicable; in the event the identity of the person in charge is not known or if such person cannot be found after reasonable diligence in attempting to locate the person, a copy shall be attached to a prominent place on such premises.

This 15th day of April 2015

(L.S.)


(Judge's Signature)

STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA

AFFIDAVIT

COUNTY OF Dorchester

OCA15003518

Personally appeared before me, one Detective Andy D. Martin who, being duly sworn, says that there is probable cause to believe that certain property, subject to seizure under provisions of Section 17-13-140, 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina, as amended, is located on the following premises in this County:

DESCRIPTION OF PERSON OR PROPERTY SOUGHT

Any and all evidence associated with the disappearance of Ashley Pegram. To include organic and inorganic evidence to include but not limited to touch DNA, blood, semen, photographs, saliva, clothing, shoes, hair, any GPS unit, telephones, receipts of locations travelled, notes, ledgers, papers, and electronic equipment. Any item that may have been used to inflict harm upon the person of Ashley Pegram.

DESCRIPTION OF PREMISES (PERSON, PLACE, OR THING) TO BE SEARCHED

White in color Ford Econo Van bearing South Carolina

**REASON FOR AFFIANT'S BELIEF THAT THE PROPERTY OR PERSON SOUGHT
IS ON THE SUBJECT PREMISES**

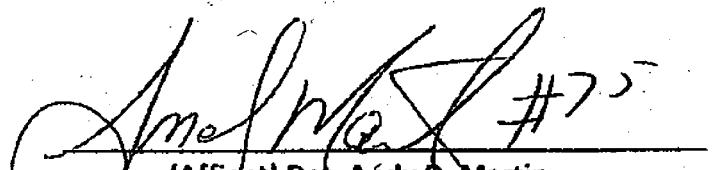
The Dorchester County Sheriff's Office received a missing person report involving Ashley Pegram 28 y/o female. Through investigation it was learned that the subject Edward Bonilla was in fact employed with RW Cauble Flooring at 4221 Rivers Avenue, North Charleston South Carolina. The subject had access to a company van. The owner operator of the business gave voluntary consent to the van. Crime scene recovered a substance in the rear of the van which tested presumptive for human blood. In a previous interview with the subject; he stated he was unemployed. Affiant is requesting this search warrant to obtain organic and inorganic evidence to ascertain if anything harmful has occurred to Ms. Pegram and whether Mr. Bonilla is involved in her disappearance.

Sworn to and Subscribed before me:

This 15th day of April 2015


(Judge's Signature)

(L.S.)


(Affiant) Det. Andy D. Martin

212 Deming Way
Summerville S.C. 29483

I, Det. J. Scott, received the attached Search Warrant April 16, 2015 and have executed it as follows:

On April 16, 2015 at 0830 o'clock AM,

I searched the Person of N/A or premises at White Ford Econo Van, bearing SC tag (Deming Way
Summerville SC 29483 which is described in the warrant.

I left a copy of the warrant Inside the vehicle (name of person searched or location or premises searched),
together with a receipt for the items seized.

The following is an inventory of property taken pursuant to the warrant:

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION
J. Scott	(4) latent print cards	Entire Vehicle
	Hair/fiber from rear of van	Rear floor van
J. Scott	(1) Swab from #8 stain	Rear floor van
	(1) Swab from stain #7	

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION
J. Scott	(1) Swab from stain #4	Rear floor van
	(1) Swab from stain #6	
J. Scott	(1) Swab from stain #5	Rear floor van
	(6) Pieces of wood with red stains	

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION
J. Scott	(1) extension cord	Rear floor van
	(1) Piece of rope	
J. Scott	(1) yellow cloth	Rear floor van
	(2) Swabs from stain #9	

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION
J. Scott	(1) Swab from stain #10	Rear floor van
	(1) Swab from stain #11	
J. Scott	(1) Swab from stain #12 Side of driver seat	Driver Seat
	(1) Swab from stain #13 ridge 5	Rear floor van

This inventory was made in the presence of: Det. Mullis, B. Berg

I swear that this Inventory is a true and detailed account of all the property taken by me pursuant to the warrant.

SWORN to before me this 22nd day of April, 20 15

Xe Petter (L.S.)
Signature of Judge

[Signature]
Signature of Officer Executing Warrant

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION
J. Scott	(1) Swab from stain #14 Rear passenger Wheel Well	Passenger wheel well
	(1) Swab Stain #15 rear passenger wall	Rear passenger wall
J. Scott	(1) Swab stain #16 Inside rear passenger door	Rear passenger door
	(1) Swab Stain #17 Rear passenger wall	Rear passenger wall

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION
J. Scott	(1) Swab stain #18 Rear passenger wall	Rear passenger Wall
	(1) Swab stain #19 Rear Passenger wall	
J. Scott	(1) Swab stain #20 Van Ceiling	Van Ceiling
	(1) Swab stain #21 Van Ceiling	

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION
J. Scott	(1) Swab stain #22 Van Ceiling	Van Ceiling
	(1) Paper invoice	Middle Console
J. Scott	(1) Paper note	Middle Console
	(1) Swab from passenger compartment Van	Passenger Compartment

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION
J. Scott	(1) Swab from steering wheel/shifter	Driver Side
	Hair, rear of van behind passenger seat	Behind passenger seat
J. Scott	Hair - image 725-729	Rear passenger floor
	Hair - ridge #3 Image 720-722	

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION
J. Scott	Hair- next to stain #9	Rear passenger floor
	Hair - ridge #5	
J. Scott	Hair/yellow note Near stain #10 behind driver seat	Rear passenger floor
	Hair - under driver side seat belt trim	Under driver seatbelt trim

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION
J. Scott	Hair- ridge #8 behind driver seat	Rear passenger floor
	Hair- ridge #10 behind driver seat	
J. Scott	Hair/fiber ridge #7 behind driver seat	Rear passenger floor
	Hair- under back of driver seat	Under driver seat

This inventory was made in the presence of: Det. Mullis, B. Berg

I swear that this inventory is a true and detailed account of all the property taken by me pursuant to the warrant:

SWORN to before me this 22nd day of April, 20 15

Nathan Bolton (L.S.)
Signature of Judge

[Signature]
Signature of Officer Executing Warrant

RETURN

PAGE 3 OF 4

OCA 15003518

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION
J. Scott	Hair- From stain #10 behind driver seat	Passenger rear floor
	(1) Dry fast sealer one gallon can with red stains	
J. Scott	(1) Gallon can of cabot timber oil with red stains	Passenger rear floor
	(1) Gallon can of lenamr polyurethane with red stains	

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION
J. Scott	(1) gallon can of woodline with red stains	Passenger rear floor
	(1) Gallon plastic jug of paint thinner	
J. Scott	(1) putty knife with red stains	Passenger rear floor
	3 Small rocks	

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION
J. Scott	4oz tube of astro glide	Passenger rear floor
	Box heavy duty hookit discs, with red stains	
J. Scott	(1) yellow cloth	Passenger rear floor
	(2) Pieces of Vegetation (grass and stick like material)	

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION
J. Scott	Approximately 8 inch plastic material with red stains	Passenger rear floor
	Open 2oz container of soft soap body wash	Center console
J. Scott	(1) Q-tip with stains	Center Console
	(1) Garmin Nuvi 1300 GPS with cord, Serial (224495742)	

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION
J. Scott	Burgundy Dockers with teal shirt with one white sock with red stains	Front floor compartment
	(1) White cap with red stains	Rear passenger floor
J. Scott	(1) box with rolled plastic with red stains	Rear passenger floor
	(1) Gallon plastic jug of Dura seal, polyurethane	

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION
J. Scott	(1) gallon can of woodline polyurethane with missing handle with red stains	Rear passenger floor
	(2) Paint roller handles	
J. Scott	One metal handle with red stains	Rear passenger floor
	Plastic bag containing vacuum bags with red stains	

This inventory was made in the presence of: Det. Mullis, B. Berg

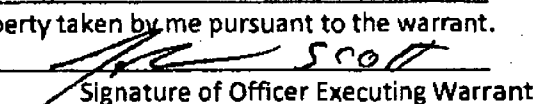
I swear that this inventory is a true and detailed account of all the property taken by me pursuant to the warrant.

SWORN to before me this 22nd day of April, 2015



Signature of Judge

(L.S.)


Signature of Officer Executing Warrant

RETURN

635

PAGE 4 OF 4

OCA 15003518

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION
J. Scott	(1) simplify plastic water bottle	Rear passenger floor
	(1) 3m heavy duty hookit discs with red stains	
J. Scott	(1) White sock	Passenger side floor board
	(2) White cloth rags, (1) with stains (1) sample from box	Rear passenger floor

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION
J. Scott	(1) cloth glove with stains	Rear passenger floor
	(1) Empty plastic wrapper (polvo-rones)	
J. Scott	(1) roll of white tape	Under passenger Seat
	(1) 3m 8511 breathing mask with stains	Center console

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION
J. Scott	(1) black metal tire iron	Rear passenger corner
	(1) Overpack container, containing sample from paint thinner jug	Rear Passenger Floor
J. Scott	(1) metal Rack	Behind Driver Seat

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION

BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION

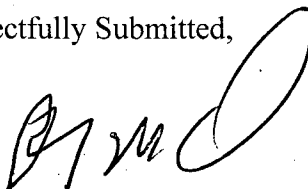
BY WHOM	ITEM SEIZED	LOCATION

This inventory was made in the presence of: Det. Mullis, B. Berg
 I swear that this inventory is a true and detailed account of all the property taken by me pursuant to the warrant.
 SWORN to before me this 28th day of April, 2015
[Signature] (L.S.)
 Signature of Judge
[Signature]
 Signature of Officer Executing Warrant

CERTIFICATE OF COUNSEL FOR APPELLANT

Counsel for appellant certifies that this Record on Appeal contains all material proposed to be included by any of the parties and not any other material and that this Record on Appeal complies to the best of my ability with the April 15, 2014 order from the South Carolina Supreme Court entitled "Revised Order Concerning Personal Identifying Information and Other Sensitive Information in Appellate Court Filings."

Respectfully Submitted,



Robert M. Dudek
Chief Appellate Defender

South Carolina Commission on Indigent Defense
Division of Appellate Defense
PO Box 11589
Columbia, S.C. 29211-1589

ATTORNEY FOR APPELLANT

This 14th day of December, 2017.

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SC Court of Appeals