

1 go. Thanks so much.

2 Call your next witness, please.

3 MS. FULLER: State calls Officer Rowe.

4 THE BAILIFF: She hasn't been sworn yet.

5 THE COURT: I know. I did not see her at the
6 beginning.

7 (Witness sworn.)

8 THE COURT: And you may proceed.

9 MS. FULLER: Thank you, Your Honor.

10 **SHERIDAN ROWE LANGFORD,**

11 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

12 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

13 Q. (BY MS. FULLER) Would you please state your name
14 for the record?

15 A. Officer Sheridan Rowe Langford.

16 Q. And you were Officer Rowe when you wrote this
17 report; is that correct?

18 A. Yes, ma'am.

19 Q. And what happened since then?

20 A. I got married.

21 Q. Okay. If I call you Officer Rowe, is that okay?

22 A. Yes, ma'am.

23 Q. Okay. Could you please tell us who you're employed
24 by?

25 A. The Houston Police Department.

1 Q. And how long have you been a Houston Police
2 Department officer?

3 A. About 12 years.

4 Q. Prior to becoming a police officer, what did you
5 do?

6 A. I taught sixth grade science.

7 Q. And how long did you do that for?

8 A. Ten years.

9 Q. All right. Can you tell us your educational
10 background?

11 A. I have a bachelor's in elementary education and
12 then I was hired on with the police department.

13 Q. Okay. So, when you got hired on with the police
14 department, did you go through the police academy?

15 A. Yes, I did.

16 Q. And you said 12 years. So, what did you first do
17 with the police department?

18 A. I started out in patrol and then from there I
19 became a print unit and from there I became a tactical
20 officer and then I moved into the crime scene unit.

21 Q. Okay. So, how long were you on patrol for?

22 A. A couple years.

23 Q. Then you said you moved into the print unit; is
24 that correct?

25 A. Yes.

1 Q. And what is that?

2 A. A print unit is sort of like a mini CSI. You work
3 property crimes, pretty much everything short of homicides
4 and suicides, natural death, things like that.

5 Q. Then where did you say you went after that?

6 A. I went to a tactical unit where we did felony
7 warrants and narcotics.

8 Q. Okay. Then you moved into the crime scene unit?

9 A. Yes, I did.

10 Q. How long have you been there?

11 A. I'm in my sixth year.

12 Q. Can you tell the jury a little bit about the
13 training that you get when you move into the crime scene
14 unit.

15 A. We get a lot of extra death investigation training.

16 Q. What does that mean?

17 A. Well, basically my job is to go look at a scene and
18 determine if the person died of questionable circumstances.
19 If this is a natural, if it's an accident, if it's a
20 homicide and needs to be investigated further.

21 Q. Okay. What kind of duties would you do out on a
22 scene? What would your responsibilities be?

23 A. I deal with the physical evidence only.

24 Q. Okay. So, do you interview witnesses?

25 A. No, I do not.

1 Q. Okay. So, you get called out to scenes and you
2 process whatever physical evidence you find when you get
3 there?

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. Okay. Do you recall being dispatched out to a
6 location on June 25th of 2010?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. Can you tell the jury where that location was?

9 A. 6100 block of Frisco.

10 Q. And is that located in Harris County, Texas?

11 A. Yes, it is.

12 Q. When you got out there that day, did you know what
13 you were headed to?

14 A. I knew that I had a disarticulated skeleton.

15 Q. What does that mean?

16 A. I had a skeleton that bones were spread out.

17 Q. Okay. So, on your way to the scene you're given
18 that information?

19 A. Yes, ma'am.

20 Q. When you get out to the scene, can you tell the
21 jury a little bit about the area, 6100 Frisco, that
22 location?

23 A. This is near an intersection of Hardy and 610.

24 Q. Okay. A lot of -- where those freeways come
25 together or intersect?

1 A. Yes. It's a maze of freeways overhead.

2 Q. Okay.

3 MS. FULLER: May I approach the witness?

4 THE COURT: You may.

5 Q. (BY MS. FULLER) I'm going to show you what has
6 been marked as State's Exhibits 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15
7 and 16 through 22, to make it easier.

8 THE COURT: Is that 9 through 22 then?

9 MS. FULLER: Yes, ma'am.

10 A. Yes, ma'am.

11 Q. (BY MS. FULLER) Do those photographs look familiar
12 to you?

13 A. Yes, they do.

14 Q. What are they photographs of?

15 A. Of the location.

16 Q. 6100 Frisco?

17 A. Yes, ma'am.

18 Q. And are they a fair and accurate depiction of the
19 scene when you saw it when you arrived that day?

20 A. Yes, ma'am.

21 MS. FULLER: Okay. Your Honor, at this time
22 State moves to admit State's Exhibit 9 through 22 and
23 tenders to defense counsel for inspection.

24 MR. CORNELIUS: No objection.

25 THE COURT: 9 through 22 will be admitted.

1 *THE COURT:* Ms. Fuller, rather than starting
2 to go through those, why don't we go ahead and break for
3 lunch so we don't break it up.

4 *MS. FULLER:* Yes, ma'am.

5 *THE COURT:* Ladies and gentlemen, we're going
6 to break for lunch at this time. If y'all will just step
7 into the jury room, the bailiffs will be with you in just a
8 few minutes to take you to lunch.

9 (*Jury not present.*)

10 (*Lunch recess.*)

11 (*Jury present.*)

12 *THE COURT:* Be seated, please. And you may
13 proceed.

14 *MS. FULLER:* Your Honor, may I have permission
15 to publish the photos?

16 *THE COURT:* Yes.

17 *Q.* (*BY MS. FULLER*) Okay, Officer Rowe or Langston
18 (sic), when we last left off, we were talking about the area
19 at 6100 Frisco; is that correct?

20 *A.* Yes, ma'am.

21 *Q.* I'm going to show you some pictures and if you
22 would tell us what we're looking at. This would be State's
23 Exhibit No. 9?

24 *A.* This would be the frontage road of the Loop and
25 this is Frisco, that little green sign is Frisco.

1 Q. Okay. State's Exhibit 10.

2 A. This is the same area, just a more direct view of
3 the frontage road.

4 Q. Okay. And you're taking these from inside the
5 wooded area looking out?

6 A. Yes, ma'am, I am.

7 Q. Okay. The pink bush that we're looking at, is that
8 in anywhere close proximity to the remains?

9 A. Yes. The pink bush was, in essence, my landmark
10 for -- the bulk of the skeletal remains were found right
11 near this pink bush.

12 Q. Okay. State's Exhibit 11. If you need me to zoom
13 in, let me know. Actually, can you tell us what highway
14 that is?

15 A. This is the road that takes you to 59.

16 Q. Okay. And this portion of the road right there?

17 A. This is the same frontage road that we were looking
18 at before but now we're looking back the opposite direction.

19 Q. Okay. State's Exhibit 12. Give it one second and
20 it will auto focus. Can you see what we're looking at
21 there?

22 A. Yes, ma'am.

23 Q. What is that?

24 A. This is the pink bush, the frontage road where we
25 have cars, the vehicles parked, and a sidewalk leading

1 parallel to the frontage road.

2 Q. Okay. Can you read the street sign back there?

3 A. No, ma'am. It's Hardy.

4 Q. Okay. So, Hardy Street right there?

5 A. Yes, ma'am.

6 Q. And do you know the overpass or the freeway that's
7 going overhead?

8 A. I don't want to pin myself down on which of those
9 because it was a maze of --

10 Q. And it's right where they all come together.

11 A. Right.

12 Q. Okay. State's Exhibit 13, what are we looking at
13 here?

14 A. This is the grassy area on the down side from the
15 pink bush. The pink bush would be up here. The frontage
16 road would be where I am now and this would be by the power
17 lines and the railroad tracks. If you look, I believe this
18 is a tower for the power lines.

19 Q. Okay. And are those other landmarks that you use
20 when drawing your scene map?

21 A. Yes, ma'am.

22 Q. Okay. State's Exhibit 14.

23 A. This is the pink bush and you have crime scene tape
24 around the wooded area that contains the skeletal remains.

25 Q. Would this picture have been taken from that

1 sidewalk that was parallel to the feeder road?

2 A. Yes, ma'am. Or, wait, ma'am. It's possible the
3 sidewalk is right in here. This is close to the sidewalk
4 but this may be the grassy area and the sidewalk right here.

5 Q. Okay. But it would be a picture taken, say, from
6 the frontage road?

7 A. Yeah.

8 Q. Okay. State's Exhibit 15.

9 A. This is turned back around headed towards Houston
10 and Frisco is on this side.

11 Q. State's Exhibit 16.

12 A. This is Frisco, little residential houses.

13 Q. Okay. Can you point it out again? I don't think
14 it showed.

15 A. (Witness complies.)

16 Q. Perfect. State's Exhibit 17.

17 A. The street sign for Frisco.

18 Q. All right. State's Exhibit 18.

19 A. This is just a closer view of Frisco with the same
20 little houses.

21 Q. State's Exhibit 19.

22 A. I believe the pink bush that we're referring to
23 would be here and this is a wooded area behind that.

24 Q. Okay. State's Exhibit 20.

25 A. The power lines. Pink bush would be right in here.

1 Q. State's Exhibit 21.

2 A. The pink bush.

3 Q. And State's Exhibit 22.

4 A. I believe from this angle, our power lines are on
5 this side.

6 Q. Okay.

7 A. And our bush is right up here.

8 Q. Okay. Now, when you first arrive onto the scene,
9 what is the first thing that you do when you get out there?

10 A. When I first get out there, I am scoping the area
11 out and I'm -- I carry around small yellow flags and as I
12 see a bone or a cluster of bones, I mark that.

13 Q. Okay. Can you tell me when -- by the time you get
14 out there, is the scene already marked off by crime scene
15 tape?

16 A. Yes, it is.

17 Q. Is the scene, in your opinion, contained, meaning,
18 is there anybody -- people that are not HPD walking in and
19 out of this area?

20 A. No, ma'am.

21 Q. Okay. So, you don't have to actually contain the
22 scene. When you get there, you can just start processing
23 what you see.

24 A. Yes, ma'am.

25 Q. Okay. So, you said that when you got there, you

1 carry yellow flags with you and you started to do what with
2 those yellow flags?

3 A. As I'm walking the scene, if I see a bone or a
4 cluster of bones, I mark it with a yellow flag.

5 Q. And are there other pieces of evidence that you're
6 seeing out there as well?

7 A. Yes, ma'am.

8 Q. What other types of evidence are you seeing out
9 there?

10 A. Clothing, bottles.

11 Q. Okay. And when you see those, do you mark them
12 with a plaque or something else?

13 A. I mark those with a tent evidence marker, a
14 placard.

15 Q. Okay. Was there any other type of evidence that
16 you discovered when you were out there?

17 A. We had a -- in that wooded area sort of a homeless
18 camp on a homeless hangout and there were various articles
19 of clothing, bottle, a cooler.

20 Q. Okay. Did you find any type of weapons out there,
21 like guns or knives?

22 A. No, ma'am.

23 Q. Did you find any evidence of projectiles, bullets,
24 casings or any other type of firearm evidence?

25 A. No, ma'am.

1 Q. Did you find anything out there that you could
2 describe as being a weapon?

3 A. No, ma'am.

4 MS. FULLER: May I approach the witness?

5 THE COURT: You may.

6 Q. (BY MS. FULLER) I'm going to show you what has
7 been marked as State's Exhibits 24 through 26. Excuse me.
8 24 through 27.

9 A. Okay.

10 Q. 29, 40 through 49, 51, 73, 77 through 85 and 87
11 through 89. Do you recognize these photographs?

12 A. Yes, ma'am.

13 Q. And what are these photographs?

14 A. Photographs from the scene.

15 Q. Okay. And are they a fair and accurate
16 representation of what you saw out there on the scene?

17 A. Yes, ma'am.

18 MS. FULLER: Okay. Your Honor, at this time
19 State moves to admit, and I will tender them to defense
20 counsel as I say them, 24 through 26, 27, 29, 40 through 49,
21 51, 73, 77 through 85, 87 through 89 and tender to defense
22 counsel for inspection.

23 MR. CORNELIUS: I need to look at them just a
24 minute.

25 THE COURT: Sure.

1 MR. CORNELIUS: I have no objections, Judge.

2 THE COURT: They will be admitted.

3 MS. FULLER: Permission to publish, Your
4 Honor?

5 THE COURT: You may.

6 Q. (BY MS. FULLER) All right, Officer Langston. I
7 want to go through some of these pictures that you've shown
8 to us.

9 MS. FULLER: Before I do that, may I approach
10 the witness, Your Honor?

11 THE COURT: You may.

12 Q. (BY MS. FULLER) I'm going to show you State's
13 Exhibit 8. What is State's Exhibit 8?

14 A. This is a two-dimensional diagram of the scene.

15 Q. Who created that diagram?

16 A. I did.

17 Q. Is it drawn to scale?

18 A. No.

19 Q. Is it a fair and accurate depiction of the scene as
20 you documented it?

21 A. Yes.

22 Q. Would it aid the jury in understanding where some
23 of this evidence was located?

24 A. Yes.

25 MS. FULLER: Your Honor, at this time State

1 moves to admit State's Exhibit No. 8, tenders to defense
2 counsel for inspection.

3 MR. CORNELIUS: No objection.

4 THE COURT: It will be admitted.

5 MS. FULLER: Permission to publish that as
6 well, Your Honor.

7 THE COURT: Yes.

8 Q. (BY MS. FULLER) All right. State's Exhibit 24,
9 what are we looking at here?

10 A. This is the pink bush with Evidence Placard 1, 4, I
11 think that might be 2 and I'm not sure what this one is.

12 Q. Okay. And in your report did you list what these
13 placards correspond to?

14 A. Yes, ma'am, there is a legend.

15 Q. Okay. Can you -- do you have that legend with you?

16 A. Oh, no, I don't have the legend.

17 Q. Okay. Okay. By the time you start taking
18 pictures, about what time of the day is it that you get
19 called out to the scene?

20 A. I got called out to the scene at 7:15.

21 Q. Okay. And it was June. So, was it still daylight
22 at that time?

23 A. Yes, it was.

24 Q. And while you're processing the scene, does it
25 eventually become dark?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. And did you do anything to get artificial light out
3 there to help you?

4 A. Yes, we did.

5 Q. What did you do?

6 A. Officer Ferguson contacted the fire department and
7 they came and they brought these big lights to help
8 illuminate the scene.

9 Q. Okay. State's Exhibit No. 1 -- I'm sorry. State's
10 Exhibit 25. What am I looking at here?

11 A. You are looking at Evidence Marker No. 1.

12 Q. Okay. And can you tell what piece of evidence this
13 is?

14 A. Yes, ma'am. These are -- this is a pair of teal
15 green panties.

16 Q. Would that be State's Exhibit 26?

17 A. Yes, ma'am.

18 Q. And on State's Exhibit No. 8, the 1 would
19 correspond on your legend to where?

20 A. Right here. Oops. It's kind of off of it.

21 Q. Of the bushes you have on here, do you know which
22 one the pink bush is?

23 A. I think the pink bush is this one.

24 MS. FULLER: May I approach the witness, Your
25 Honor?

1 THE COURT: You may.

2 Q. (BY MS. FULLER) Did you also prepare the legend
3 when you prepared the map?

4 A. Yes, ma'am.

5 Q. Does that appear to be the legend that you created
6 for this case?

7 A. Yes, it is.

8 Q. All right. State's Exhibit 27, what are we looking
9 at here?

10 A. Evidence Marker No. 2 is marking a sandal here and
11 a sandal here.

12 Q. Okay.

13 A. And it's in relationship to the pair of panties
14 here.

15 Q. Okay. Do the two sandals look like they were a
16 pair that went together?

17 A. Yes, ma'am.

18 Q. And State's Exhibit 29.

19 A. These are the sandals.

20 Q. That you had in State's Exhibit 27.

21 A. Yes, ma'am.

22 Q. State's Exhibit 40, what are we looking at here?

23 A. You're looking at Evidence Placard 6 and 7 and then
24 the array of yellow flags marking bones.

25 Q. Okay. Let's first talk about Evidence Placards 6

1 and 7. What do they correspond to?

2 A. No. 6 corresponds to a pair of shorts and a shirt
3 pressed together. And No. 7, there is a red bra right here.

4 Q. Okay. Now, you said when you first started
5 testifying that when you got on the scene you had these
6 yellow flags. What again did you do with the yellow flags?

7 A. I marked the bones with the yellow flags so we
8 don't step on them.

9 Q. Okay. In these pictures the yellow flags
10 illustrate bones that you found in this cluster.

11 A. Yes, ma'am.

12 Q. And I want to show State's Exhibit 8 again in
13 relation to the diagram. Where were 6 and 7?

14 A. 6 -- it's not showing exactly, but -- and 7.

15 Q. Okay. State's Exhibit 41?

16 A. The shorts and the shirt.

17 Q. Okay. And this is an -- is this an evidence
18 placard that's just been knocked over?

19 A. It's an evidence placard that's leaning forward and
20 because of the glare, we can't quite read the name.

21 Q. Oh, gotcha. Okay. So, this is the shorts and the
22 shirt.

23 A. Yes, ma'am.

24 Q. State's Exhibit 42.

25 A. The tag for the shorts.

1 Q. And what size does that tag read?

2 A. Small.

3 Q. State's Exhibit 43, what are we looking at there?

4 A. Actually I think that's another picture of the
5 shorts.

6 Q. Okay. State's Exhibit 41.

7 A. The shirt.

8 Q. I don't know if you can tell from the glare but can
9 you see on this photograph what size the shirt is? If not,
10 I'll walk the picture up to you.

11 A. Yes. Yes, it's a large.

12 Q. And you said that the shorts and the shirt were
13 found pressed together. Is that what you said?

14 A. Well, they're obviously together because they had
15 the same body fluids stuck.

16 Q. Okay. State's Exhibit 45.

17 A. I cannot tell from this picture if that's the pair
18 of shorts or the shirt. I think that may be the shirt.

19 Q. Okay. But in any event, the Placard No. 6
20 corresponds to the shorts and the shirt together?

21 A. To both together as a unit.

22 Q. It looks like there's something back here and
23 something here?

24 A. Yes, ma'am.

25 Q. Would that be the same, the shorts and the shirt?

1 A. Yes, ma'am.

2 Q. State's Exhibit 47 -- excuse me. 46.

3 A. This is a characteristic burn pattern of a
4 decomposing body.

5 Q. You say "characteristic burn pattern." What do you
6 mean by that?

7 A. When a body decomposes in the soil and leaches in
8 the soil, this pattern is very typical of what I see.

9 Q. Okay. So, it's the decomposed body that is killing
10 off the vegetation in that area.

11 A. Yes.

12 Q. Again, in State's Exhibit 46, close to that, that
13 burn area is Placard 6, which is the shorts and shirt.

14 A. Correct.

15 Q. State's Exhibit 47.

16 A. This is a more broad picture of the same area.

17 Q. Was this area the one that contained the largest
18 cluster of bones?

19 A. Yes, it was.

20 Q. State's Exhibit 48.

21 A. This is the same area but it also includes Placard
22 7, which shows the red bra.

23 Q. Okay. State's Exhibit 49.

24 A. The red bra and the complainant's skull.

25 Q. Okay. Can you point out some of what we're seeing

1 here, if you could touch your screen.

2 A. Here we have the red bra. Here we have a skull.
3 Because I believe you're going to have the forensic
4 anthropologist come in, I hesitate to identify each bone
5 and --

6 Q. Sure. State's Exhibit 51.

7 A. A close-up.

8 Q. Close-up of the --

9 A. A close-up of the red bra and the skull.

10 Q. Okay. State's Exhibit 73. What are we looking at
11 here?

12 A. This is the forensic anthropology team and they are
13 going through the thatch in that burn mark, that burn
14 pattern, looking for any additional bones.

15 Q. Okay. So, at some point the anthropology team
16 comes out?

17 A. Yes, ma'am.

18 Q. And when they come out on the scene, are you still
19 working, collecting your evidence?

20 A. Yes, I'm working with them.

21 Q. Okay. So, at the point that they come out, the two
22 of you start to work together?

23 A. Yes, ma'am.

24 Q. The -- okay. State's Exhibit 77.

25 A. This is further down the hill. If you look -- this

1 is the cluster of flags that we were looking at earlier and
2 this shows that further down the little hill towards Hardy
3 Street, you have more bones.

4 Q. What is State's Exhibit 78?

5 A. This is a long bone.

6 Q. State's Exhibit 79.

7 A. More bones, ma'am. It looks like a clavicle.

8 Q. State's Exhibit 80?

9 A. More long bones, ma'am.

10 Q. State's Exhibit 81.

11 A. This looks like it may be a foot bone or a foot
12 cluster of bones.

13 Q. State's Exhibit 82?

14 A. Another long bone.

15 Q. State's Exhibit 83?

16 A. And another long bone.

17 Q. State's Exhibit 84?

18 A. Vertebrae.

19 Q. State's Exhibit 85?

20 A. Possible bones from up in the arm.

21 Q. State's Exhibit 87?

22 A. Possible clavicle.

23 Q. State's Exhibit 88?

24 A. I cannot tell you for sure which bone that is.

25 Q. What are you seeing, though?

1 A. We're looking at a bone here and probably the
2 shorts or shirt right here.

3 Q. Now, after you and the forensic team put flags in
4 the ground for where all of the bones are located, what do
5 they do next? What do y'all do next?

6 A. Well, after we have flagged the bones, then the
7 anthropologist goes through and he identifies which
8 particular bone it is and right or left.

9 Q. And is he making that identification where he finds
10 the bone out there on the scene?

11 A. Yes, he does, and then he writes it on the flag.

12 Q. Okay. And when they identify all the bones out on
13 the ground --

14 A. Yes, ma'am.

15 Q. -- what did y'all do next?

16 A. We take the bones and we put it on the white body
17 bag and lay it out so you can get an approximate idea of how
18 many bones we found, which bones we have found and which we
19 would still be looking for.

20 Q. Okay. And that would be State's Exhibit 89. Is
21 that what I'm looking at here?

22 A. Yes, ma'am.

23 Q. Now, you found some other pieces of evidence,
24 right? You said that this was a -- looked like an area
25 where there were homeless people maybe living?

1 A. Yes, ma'am.

2 Q. I'm going to put State's Exhibit No. 8 back up.

3 And what are some of those other pieces of evidence?

4 A. Back in here in this area, it's rather thick
5 forest. Not forest but thick trees in here but if you walk
6 around here or walk downhill a little bit and then come up
7 here, you will find an area where people obviously hang out
8 and you have some clothing, you have a cooler, you have
9 bottles.

10 Q. Okay. How far away is that secondary location from
11 where you find the major cluster of bones?

12 A. Not doing my math here, I would say maybe 40 feet.

13 Q. Okay. So, it's a little ways away from where the
14 bone clusters are.

15 A. Yes, ma'am.

16 Q. Okay. And you said that it still looks like it's
17 wooded between where you see Placard 7 and, like, Placard 12
18 and 13; there's woods that kind of separate those two
19 clearings.

20 A. Yes, ma'am.

21 Q. Now, when you were collecting the evidence on that
22 back scene, where you've got 14, 9, 10, 11, those things on
23 your legend, did you find any weapons out there?

24 A. No, ma'am.

25 Q. No guns, no knives?

1 A. No, ma'am.

2 Q. Did you find any bullet projectiles? Bullets,
3 casings?

4 A. No, ma'am.

5 Q. Find anything that in your opinion could be used as
6 a weapon?

7 A. No, ma'am.

8 Q. Okay. So, at this point you have collected -- you
9 and the anthropology team have collected all the bones.
10 You've laid them out on the body bag. What do y'all do
11 next?

12 A. After we took care of this area, then we walked
13 around here and collected these items.

14 Q. Okay.

15 MS. FULLER: May I approach the witness?

16 THE COURT: You may.

17 Q. (BY MS. FULLER) I'm going to show you -- and I've
18 got gloves for you here -- what has been marked as State's
19 Exhibit 92.

20 A. Yes, ma'am.

21 Q. 93 and 94.

22 A. Yes, ma'am.

23 Q. Do you recognize these bags?

24 A. Yes, ma'am.

25 Q. Okay. What are these bags?

1 A. These are bags that I put these articles in at the
2 scene.

3 Q. Okay. Let's talk about State's Exhibit 92 first.
4 What is contained within State's Exhibit 92?

5 A. The red bra and shirt.

6 Q. Okay. And can you look inside and verify that that
7 is, in fact --

8 A. They have it wrapped up.

9 Q. You want me to put it up here?

10 A. Yes. Yes. I think the shorts are in here, also.

11 Q. Okay. All right. So, when you collected the red
12 bra, the shirt and the shorts, you put them into this bag?

13 A. Yes, ma'am, I put them into this bag.

14 Q. Okay. And then what happened after -- tell us what
15 happened. Where do these bags go after you collect this
16 evidence?

17 A. When I collect the evidence, I take it into the
18 Houston Police Department property room and I tag it into
19 the property room. The homicide investigator goes through
20 and he notifies the lab what articles are in the property
21 room and what tests he wants done on these articles. And
22 that's why the bag I have is the same bag but the articles
23 have been taken out and rewrapped in white paper from the
24 lab.

25 Q. Okay. But you looked at what's contained within

1 the white paper and do, in fact, know it's the same articles
2 of clothing, the red bra, the shirt, the shorts that you
3 collected on the scene?

4 A. Yes, ma'am.

5 Q. Okay. I want to show you State's Exhibit 93, and
6 if you could do the same thing. Does that look familiar?

7 A. Yes, ma'am. And as before, they have retaped it
8 up. Yes, ma'am.

9 Q. Okay. And that is what?

10 A. These are the teal panties.

11 Q. Okay. What did you mark on the outside of this
12 bag?

13 A. It's the Evidence No. 1 and the blue panties.

14 Q. Okay. And that's your handwriting?

15 A. Yes, ma'am.

16 Q. And on State's Exhibit 92, that's your handwriting
17 as well?

18 A. That is not.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. No. That one is not.

21 Q. Okay. But these are --

22 A. Those are the items.

23 Q. Okay. State's Exhibit 94?

24 A. That is my handwriting. And these are the sandals.

25 Q. Okay. Both sets. Or the pair?

1 A. Yes, the pair.

2 Q. That would be State's Exhibit 94; is that right?

3 A. Yes, ma'am.

4 Q. Now, after you -- did you also tag the evidence
5 that was located on sort of that secondary scene?

6 A. Yes, ma'am.

7 Q. Okay. And did you follow the same procedures for
8 where you tagged that into?

9 A. Yes, I did.

10 Q. Now, after -- tell us what you did next after you
11 put all the evidence in the brown bags and prepared them for
12 the property room. What do you do next out on the scene?

13 A. Oh, after I -- well, I do a scene video before I've
14 picked this evidence up. So, I photograph the scene, I do a
15 scene video, I take approximate measurements of the scene
16 for this two-dimensional representation and then I tag the
17 items in the property room. Then I go back and I do a
18 supplement.

19 Q. Okay.

20 MS. FULLER: May I approach?

21 THE COURT: Sure.

22 Q. (BY MS. FULLER) This time I'm going to hand you
23 what's been marked as State's Exhibit 91. Do you recognize
24 that?

25 A. Yes. This is a disk of my video.

1 Q. Of the video you took of the scene?

2 A. Yes.

3 Q. At 6100 Frisco?

4 A. Correct.

5 Q. Have you seen it recently?

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Okay. Is it a fair and accurate depiction of the
8 scene that you remember it to be?

9 A. Yes.

10 Q. Was the person operating the video camera, they
11 knew how to do it?

12 A. It was me.

13 MS. FULLER: Okay. At this time State moves
14 to admit State's Exhibit 91, tenders to defense counsel for
15 inspection.

16 MR. CORNELIUS: No objection.

17 THE COURT: 91 is admitted.

18 MS. FULLER: May I publish, Your Honor?

19 THE COURT: You may.

20 MS. FULLER: I'm sorry?

21 THE COURT: You may.

22 MS. FULLER: Thank you.

23 (State's Exhibit No. 91, the scene video, was
24 played as the following testimony was heard.)

25 Q. (BY MS. FULLER) Officer Rowe, who are the people

1 we're seeing right now on the film?

2 A. This is the forensic team and the anthropology
3 team.

4 (State's Exhibit No. 91, the scene video, was
5 stopped.)

6 Q. (BY MS. FULLER) Okay. Now, we noticed that there
7 was the one main cluster of bones and there are some bones
8 that are scattered deeper into the wooded area; is that fair
9 to say?

10 A. Actually it's deeper down in -- towards Hardy down
11 into the gully.

12 Q. Okay. And when -- what would you account for those
13 bones making it to those other locations away from the
14 cluster?

15 A. Animal activity.

16 Q. Okay. Were you able to look at the condition of
17 the bones as you were staking them and as they were being
18 picked up and identified by the forensic team?

19 A. Yes, ma'am.

20 Q. And within your expertise, can you comment on the
21 condition of the bones?

22 A. It looked like some of the bones had been chewed
23 on.

24 Q. Okay. And could you tell if there were any -- was
25 there any flesh still attached to any of the bones?

1 A. No, ma'am.

2 Q. Now, you -- as a CSU officer, you go into numerous
3 crime scenes, correct?

4 A. Yes, ma'am.

5 Q. Okay. And you probably have experience with the
6 varying degrees of decomposition of a body.

7 A. Yes, ma'am.

8 Q. Did you smell anything out there that day?

9 A. No.

10 Q. And if a body was decomposing, as it would out
11 there in the woods, can you describe for us what kind of
12 odor would be there?

13 A. That would be an unmistakable odor.

14 Q. And for approximately how long?

15 A. Depending upon the weather and the temperature, it
16 could be a couple weeks.

17 Q. Okay. Do you recall what the weather and the
18 temperature was like back in June of 2010?

19 A. It was wet, as I recall. That was a wet year.

20 Q. And would those types of weather conditions speed
21 up decomposition or --

22 A. Absolutely.

23 Q. Okay. In those types of conditions do you have a
24 ballpark of how long you think the body would have had an
25 odor to it?

1 A. It's hard to say. I would still go for two weeks
2 and it's close to a sidewalk.

3 Q. Okay. You said that that was a wet year back in
4 June of 2010. Does a wet summer like that hamper your
5 ability to collect certain types of DNA?

6 A. Absolutely.

7 Q. In what way?

8 A. The longer a body is out in the weather, the less
9 chance you have of collecting DNA.

10 Q. Okay. And would the same be true of whatever
11 evidence was left behind on the things you collected, such
12 as the shirt, the shoes, the sandals?

13 A. Yes, ma'am.

14 Q. And in addition to the weather degrading that DNA
15 or the potential for that DNA, you also said that there was
16 animal activity on her body as well or evidence of that?

17 A. Yes, ma'am.

18 Q. Would that also affect any DNA you could
19 potentially collect?

20 A. Sure. Small -- the DNA is going to be -- you're
21 looking at high fibers and just tiny, minute amounts that
22 can easily be disturbed in a scene like that.

23 MS. FULLER: Your Honor, at this time State
24 moves to admit State's Exhibits 92, 93 and 94 and the
25 contents within each of them.

1 MR. CORNELIUS: No objection.

2 THE COURT: They will be admitted.

3 MS. FULLER: Pass the witness.

4 THE COURT: Mr. Cornelius.

5 MR. CORNELIUS: Can I look at all the exhibits
6 for a moment and kind of get lined up what I might want to
7 show her?

8 THE COURT: Sure.

9 MR. CORNELIUS: Can I get started?

10 THE COURT: Sure. Whenever you're ready.

11 **CROSS-EXAMINATION**

12 Q. (BY MR. CORNELIUS) Officer Langford, we've met.
13 I'm Skip Cornelius. We've met, right?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. Okay. I want to illustrate, if I can, how far from
16 where the majority of the bones were, the homeless camp or
17 whatever we call that, where the homeless people would
18 congregate either to live there or play there or whatever
19 they do there, you said was about 40 feet?

20 A. I think we'd have to actually look at the numbers
21 on our legend and do the math, but about 40 feet.

22 Q. Okay. And the jury -- if the jury is where the
23 homeless camp is, I want you to move me where you think
24 40 feet is.

25 A. Just keep moving past him.

1 Okay. But you need to put a little forest in
2 here.

3 Q. Some trees between the two.

4 A. Yes.

5 Q. But the distance.

6 A. Yes.

7 Q. Is this about right?

8 A. Yes.

9 Q. Okay. Now, did you also say the bones were
10 scattered about 40 feet apart?

11 A. You can have -- let's see, from this major cluster
12 here to down here, 20, 30 feet.

13 Q. Okay. So, that would be this far?

14 A. Yes.

15 Q. Okay. I don't know if that would be head to toe or
16 which direction but how far the other direction? If they're
17 one direction this distance that you're calling 20, 30 feet,
18 how far the other way?

19 A. I'd say -- are you -- I'm trying to figure out
20 where you -- from, say, if we're going from here to here to
21 this set of bones or from here to the end of the camp.

22 Q. Well, I'm just trying to get the widest range.

23 A. If we were to encompass the whole scene.

24 Q. Yes.

25 A. Maybe 60 -- if we were to draw something in here.

1 Q. What would be the longest distance?

2 A. Let's see. From No. 8 to No. 14. Okay. No. 8
3 down here shows to be 166 feet 8 inches west and No. 14
4 shows to be 186 feet 3 inches west. That gives you the
5 range that you're playing with in here.

6 Q. 20 feet.

7 A. In here.

8 Q. 166 to 186?

9 A. Uh-huh.

10 Q. So, about 20 feet.

11 A. Okay.

12 Q. What about the other way?

13 A. Let's see here. No. 8 is coming from the sidewalk
14 in here, 8 feet 7 inches north and No. 14 is 48 feet
15 7 inches north.

16 Q. So, about 40 feet?

17 A. So, you're looking about 40 feet.

18 Q. 40 feet by 20, roughly.

19 A. Uh-huh.

20 Q. Okay. So, 40 feet is where I was over here before.
21 Approximately.

22 A. Estimate.

23 Q. And 20 feet's half of that?

24 A. (Nods head affirmatively.)

25 Q. So, the body -- the bones of the body were

1 scattered in an area that wide, correct?

2 A. Roughly.

3 Q. Okay. When you took your pictures, all the
4 pictures that we have in evidence right now, they were taken
5 before the bones were moved or staged in any way, correct?

6 A. Everything except for the one where the bones --

7 Q. 89?

8 A. Exactly.

9 Q. I'll put it up in a minute for the jury to see. I
10 mean, that was -- part of your job was to make sure that
11 stuff is taken just the way you find it.

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Correct? Now, after you took those pictures and
14 these bones were collected, I guess they went under them to
15 look for some other bones? That's in -- and I'll put this
16 up in a minute. This is No. 7, if you remember that
17 picture.

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. So, that's them going under the area where you'd
20 marked bones?

21 A. Correct.

22 Q. Now, about how many people had walked that area in
23 an effort to try to find bones and stuff before they went
24 under the area to search?

25 A. Let's see. Before we searched, you would look at

1 two patrol officers, two homicide investigators and the four
2 people from the Medical Examiner's Office and myself.

3 Q. Okay. So, quite a number of people have carefully
4 walked through there in an attempt not to step on any
5 bones --

6 A. Correct.

7 Q. -- but it's possible there were bones under the
8 brush that they couldn't see and they may have stepped on
9 them.

10 A. Exactly.

11 Q. And that would be in addition to any animals that
12 had been on the scene and we know certainly plenty animals
13 were on the scene, correct?

14 A. Yes, sir.

15 Q. And do you have any idea what size animal, what
16 kinds of animals? Does your training teach you that at all?

17 A. Well, sir, in the city of Houston, we would look at
18 raccoons, possums, dogs. Those would be your big ones.
19 Cats.

20 Q. Animals large enough to break small bones if they
21 stood on them?

22 A. Oh, yes, sir.

23 Q. Are these clusters like this trees?

24 A. Yes, sir, trees, bushes.

25 Q. Okay. And this is the area where the bones are

1 found?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. And the camp is where? On this side of the trees?

4 A. Yes. The camp would be, like, 12, 13, 11, 9.

5 Q. Oh, this is the camp?

6 A. Yeah, that's the camp.

7 Q. These trees indicate what's between the bones and
8 the camp.

9 A. Yes, sir.

10 Q. All right.

11 MR. CORNELIUS: You know, this is going to be
12 a lot easier if I can stand up and do it with her instead of
13 going back and forth. Do you mind?

14 THE COURT: Whatever works. You can put it
15 on -- I know that would be, like, really technologically
16 advanced.

17 MR. CORNELIUS: Can we just do it the
18 old-fashioned way?

19 Q. (BY MR. CORNELIUS) Would you mind stepping down
20 with me down here?

21 A. (Witness steps down.)

22 THE COURT: I knew that was going to happen.

23 Q. (BY MR. CORNELIUS) The old-fashioned way has you
24 on this side of the court reporter and me on this side so
25 that you'll remember to keep your voice up, even though I

1 know you're a professional witness.

2 This is marked State's Exhibit 40. That's the
3 one the jury saw on the overhead earlier. Just, since we're
4 a little closer to the jury now, I want you to explain to me
5 as best you can what the distance is representing -- this is
6 the largest cluster of bones, right?

7 A. Yes.

8 Q. What do you estimate this distance to be, whichever
9 way is east and west and whichever way's north and south?

10 A. Before you pin me down on exact number, let's look
11 at --

12 Q. I am never going to pin you down on an exact number
13 because I don't think it matters exactly what it is but --

14 A. Okay. If it doesn't matter exactly, I would say
15 this little area is probably 5 to 8 feet because you're
16 looking at -- you got a little bit of a distortion from the
17 camera, you know, from here but, yeah, most of your stuff is
18 just going to be in a small cluster right here.

19 Q. Okay. Now, this long bone down here at the bottom
20 of State's Exhibit No. 40, do you know if that's a leg bone?

21 A. Yes, I believe it is a leg bone.

22 Q. And so, this long bone over here, you think that's
23 part of a leg bone, too?

24 A. I think it is.

25 Q. Okay. So, when you use the word "disarticulated."

1 Did you use that word?

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. Okay. That means everything's separated. The
4 skeleton is separated, right?

5 A. Yes, sir.

6 Q. In fact there's really nothing of the skeleton that
7 is still connected at the time you get out there, is there?

8 A. There was a foot that was kind of holding together.

9 Q. But almost all the bones were disarticulated.

10 A. Yes, sir.

11 Q. Is this the foot? This is State's No. 81.

12 A. Yes.

13 Q. Is that the one you're referring to that was kind
14 of still connected?

15 A. Yes, sir.

16 Q. State's 82 and 83, are these the same leg bones
17 that we saw in the other picture, these are just close-ups?

18 A. Not necessarily, no.

19 Q. Okay.

20 A. Because this may not be a long bone -- I mean, may
21 not be the leg bone. This looks to me to be a leg bone.

22 Q. Okay. State's 86 you believe is the leg bone and
23 you're not holding yourself out to be an anthropologist or a
24 medical doctor.

25 A. Exactly.

1 Q. 83, you're not sure.

2 A. Right. It looks like it's --

3 Q. It's an awful long bone.

4 A. It looks like an awful long bone and it has been
5 chewed.

6 Q. This is State's 80 and 78. They're long bones,
7 too, aren't they?

8 A. Yes, sir.

9 Q. Are these leg bones?

10 A. They look to be.

11 Q. Are these different leg bones than the one we've
12 just seen?

13 A. I think these are probably the same leg bones
14 you're looking at. This one looks like it may be a
15 different one.

16 Q. Okay. State's 84. I think that's an 84 right
17 there.

18 A. Yes, sir.

19 Q. You said those were vertebrae earlier?

20 A. Yes, sir.

21 Q. Okay. Where were they? Do you know?

22 A. I do not know on that.

23 Q. So, when you mean vertebrae, that was part of
24 somebody's backbone?

25 A. Yes, sir.

1 Q. And the animals just basically ate it.

2 A. Yes, sir.

3 Q. Except for these bones right here?

4 A. Well, there may be smaller, smaller, you know --
5 it's, like, a column and so there may be smaller other.
6 These were the two larger ones that we found.

7 Q. Okay. State's 87. Clavicle?

8 A. Appears.

9 Q. Where is that on my body?

10 A. It's your shoulder.

11 Q. Kind of the back? And you figure these are arm --
12 that's an arm?

13 A. Quite possibly.

14 Q. And the part that's missing, in your experience, is
15 probably missing because animals ate it?

16 A. Or carried it off.

17 Q. Okay. Far enough away to where y'all couldn't find
18 it.

19 A. Right.

20 Q. Or it disintegrated. Now, the skull -- tell me how
21 to hold that. How are you looking at that?

22 A. If the -- I'm on the sidewalk. And so, the --
23 you'd see the bra first, the shorts are over here and this
24 would be the skull with the jawbone.

25 Q. Okay. So, this is State's 51 and if we're looking

1 at it kind of the way you look at it when you took the
2 picture, we'd look at it this way.

3 A. Yes.

4 Q. Now, you were careful not to move that skull before
5 you took the picture, right?

6 A. Yes, sir.

7 Q. Now, are these ribs, these circular bones around
8 there?

9 A. Yes, they appear to be ribs.

10 Q. So, clearly there's all kinds of bones laying
11 around this skull, right?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. Clearly animals have walked all around where this
14 skull is and done something with these ribs and these other
15 bones, right?

16 A. In all likelihood.

17 Q. And if there's bones under those, or maybe they
18 weren't under them to start out with, the animals -- animals
19 wouldn't have cared if they stepped on a bone or not, would
20 they?

21 A. No, sir.

22 Q. And this is, again, a picture, a close-up, State's
23 73, of the anthropology team searching under the first layer
24 and maybe even the second layer to see if there were any
25 bones under there, correct?

1 A. Yes, sir.

2 Q. Now, did you make any record of what they found?

3 A. As they found this, we'd write it down and record
4 it. They have this.

5 Q. They have the recording?

6 A. They should, yes.

7 Q. You don't have it?

8 A. I don't have it.

9 Q. Okay. You were helping them but it was their
10 recording?

11 A. Yes, sir.

12 Q. Now, this one, 77, I'm not sure what that is.

13 A. These would be bones that are -- this is the major
14 cluster that we just looked at.

15 Q. Uh-huh.

16 A. These are -- if you look -- see where the -- it
17 says -- can I walk up here?

18 Q. Yes. Show us.

19 A. See how you have the word "bones" down here, this
20 is downhill from that, like, your power lines were over --
21 up here. These would be that shot that you're taking right
22 there. So, to take that photograph, I would be standing
23 here and shooting up.

24 Q. Okay. And give me your best -- come around on this
25 side. Give me your best estimate -- first of all, do you

1 remember what these bones were?

2 A. No, I don't.

3 Q. What is your best estimate of this distance? And I
4 don't expect you to be precise.

5 A. We're going to have to go back up to the numbers.
6 I -- let me look at -- but let me look at my report.

7 Q. Sure.

8 A. To get an idea.

9 MR. CORNELIUS: Can you clear that for me,
10 please?

11 A. Okay. Here's a listing of the bones we have.

12 Q. (BY MR. CORNELIUS) Yeah, I have that.

13 A. Okay. This is what we have. Whether or not --
14 this, I would have to go in and tell you -- do my math, plot
15 these out to figure out which bones are the further down
16 from that to tell you exactly where those bones are.

17 Q. Are these the furthest down bones?

18 A. Yes, sir, they were.

19 Q. Give me an estimate. We thought --

20 A. So, we figured from here to here was 40 feet and
21 we're looking at that little bone cluster here. So, I don't
22 know, I don't know, 12 to 20 feet.

23 Q. Okay. Okay. Go ahead and have your seat.

24 A. (Witness seated.)

25 MR. CORNELIUS: Can you get the middle ones

1 off?

2 *THE COURT:* There's a glare up there. There
3 we go. We got it.

4 *MR. CORNELIUS:* What was it?

5 *THE COURT:* It's the glare, the light above
6 it. Bad planning on that.

7 *MR. CORNELIUS:* Can I approach the screen over
8 here?

9 *THE COURT:* Sure.

10 Q. (BY MR. CORNELIUS) Okay. Now, you were present
11 when this was put together?

12 A. Yes, sir.

13 Q. This is as best as y'all could do to kind of put an
14 anatomic look at where the bones should have gone on this
15 person, correct?

16 A. Yes, sir.

17 Q. Do you know what the hyoid bone is?

18 A. Yes, in here.

19 Q. Do you know where that was found that day?

20 A. I don't recall if we found the hyoid or not.

21 Q. Okay. Now, some of these bones are broken?

22 A. Yes.

23 Q. Some of them are chewed on?

24 A. Yes.

25 Q. Some of them are gone?

1 A. Yes.

2 Q. Then what's done with all of this?

3 A. That goes to the Medical Examiner's Office.

4 Q. Okay.

5 A. I do not have the hyoid listed.

6 Q. Okay.

7 MR. CORNELIUS: Can I have just a minute,
8 Judge?

9 THE COURT: Sure.

10 MR. CORNELIUS: We'll pass the witness at this
11 time, Judge.

12 THE COURT: Any questions for this witness?

13 MS. FULLER: Nothing further from the State,
14 Your Honor.

15 THE COURT: All right. May this witness be
16 excused on call?

17 MR. CORNELIUS: Certainly.

18 MS. FULLER: Yes, Your Honor.

19 THE COURT: Thank you, Officer. You're free
20 to go.

21 Ladies and gentlemen, let's go ahead and take
22 our afternoon break. We'll be in recess until 3:30, please.

23 (Jury not present.)

24 (Recess.)

25 (Jury present.)

1 THE COURT: Be seated, please. And please
2 call your next witness.

3 MS. FULLER: State calls Juli Rehfuss.

4 THE COURT: Right up here, please, ma'am. And
5 before you have your seat, if you'll raise your right hand.

6 (Witness sworn.)

7 THE COURT: If you would, have your seat. And
8 if you would, please state and spell your name for my court
9 reporter.

10 THE WITNESS: Yes, ma'am. It's Juli Rehfuss.
11 J-U-L-I R-E-H-F-U-S-S.

12 THE COURT: You may proceed.

13 MS. FULLER: Thank you, Your Honor.

14 **JULI REHFUSS,**

15 having been first duly sworn, testified as follows:

16 **DIRECT EXAMINATION**

17 Q. (BY MS. FULLER) Good afternoon, Ms. Rehfuss.

18 A. Hi.

19 Q. Who are you employed by?

20 A. I'm employed with the Houston Police Department
21 crime laboratory.

22 Q. And what is your position with the HPD crime lab?

23 A. I'm a serologist.

24 Q. What does that mean? What is a serologist?

25 A. I basically screen evidence for the presence of