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BREAKING NEWS: THE BODY OF 50-YEAR-OLD RICKY HILL, WHO DROWNED SUNDAY WHILE ON A FAMILY OUTING AT JORDAN LAKE, WAS FOUND FRIDAY MORNING.

Posted: 11:59 a.m. yesterday Updated: 6:31 p.m. yesterday

Contact lenses found when Janet Abaroa's body was exhumed



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DURHAM, N.C. — An exhumation of Janet Abaroa's body more than five years after she was found stabbed to death in her Durham home revealed that she had been wearing contacts when she was buried.

Dr. Charles Zwerling, a Goldsboro ophthalmologist who examined the remains of the 25-year-old's eyes, testified Thursday in the first-degree murder trial of her husband, Raven Abaroa, that he found fragments of Acuvue lenses in samples he received from Durham police.

Raven Abaroa, facing life in prison if convicted, told detectives that Janet Abaroa was getting ready to get in bed when he left for a soccer game sometime around 8 p.m. on April 26, 2005.

When he arrived home, sometime after 10:30 p.m., he has said he found her on the floor in an upstairs office.

Janet Abaroa's sister and best friend, have testified that she always took out her contact lenses before she went to bed. A police investigator testified that Raven Abaroa also told him that she removed them before bed.

Defense attorney Amos Tyndall, who says police ignored evidence that might have pointed to someone else committing the crime, objected to jurors seeing photos of the exhumation and of Janet Abaroa's eyes – photos he described as "unnecessarily gory."

RELATED: Abaroa trial testimony (Day 13), Images: Janet Abaroa murder case, Complete Coverage: Janet Abaroa murder case, Lead detective faces tough questions from Abaroa defense, Lead detective was bothered by Raven Abaroa's inconsistencies, Second wife testifies of physical abuse by Raven Abaroa. Site Search: janet abaroa

SLIDESHOW Images: Janet Abaroa murder case

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Raven Abaroa, 33, became visibly upset, his face turning red and eyes tearing up as attorneys talked about the matter.

The state hasn't offered a clear motive for Janet Abaroa's death but has painted Raven Abaroa as a controlling husband with a pattern of verbal abuse against women, including his second wife, who testified that he shoved her against a wall during an argument on the day of her bridal shower.

Prosecutors appear to be close to wrapping up their case. Testimony lasted for less than two hours Thursday and will resume Monday, when they plan to call a computer forensics examiner to testify about information on Janet Abaroa's work computer.

Assistant District Attorney Charlene Coggins-Franks told Superior Court Judge Orlando Hudson that the hard drive from the computer, as well as a PDA found in Raven Abaroa's SUV, were found Thursday morning sealed in a locked cabinet at the Durham Police Department.

Court is recessed until Monday to give both the state and defense a chance to analyze the items.

- Reporter: Kelly Gardner Photographer: Pete James

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nscubvet: What they are saying is that if she was getting "in" to bed then she wouldn't have had her contacts in. Therefore he is lying because she didn't wear her contacts to bed. However, if she was like me and can't see worth a darn, she could have gotten ready for bed, gotten in to bed to read for a little while and then was going to get back up and take them out. Or she wasn't getting in to bed but getting ready for bed. Lots of scenarios and I think they are grasping for straws. As for that wife he pushed around, I have no confidence in her testimony at all.

carolinaprincess62
May 17, 2013 10:25 a.m.

I am speculating that the contact lens, again highlights RA's predisposition to lying.

valleyGirl
May 17, 2013 9:50 a.m.

I do not see what the contacts have to do with anything. Am I missing something? Can anyone enlighten me?

nscubvet
May 17, 2013 9:23 a.m.

Considering the contact case was likely empty...I say the RP messed up the investigation. packfan1752

TH MRR HAPP I RHAM OT RALIH.....

isLoVe

May 1, 2013 7:31 p.m.

And digging up the poor woman's body to check to see if her contacts were in shows poor work done during the autopsy.

dsroyston

May 1, 2013 5:01 p.m.

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