

Father still searching for answers in Harris murder

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BONHAM — The investigation into the murder of Jennifer Lynette Harris continues with Capt. Jeff Bishop and Sgt. Luis Laurel of the Attorney General's Office involved. Lt. David Perkins has charge of the case at the Fannin County Sheriff's Office.

Ms. Harris' friends saw her alive last on Mother's Day evening, May 12, 2002. Six days later, two fishermen found her body floating in the Red River.

Jerry Harris, father of the victim, said Friday that he found some clothing in a creek near the river and gave it to Perkins for the crime lab. However, Perkins hasn't received definitive test results.

Missing his daughter is difficult, Harris said. "I'd be lying if I said it wasn't. And I'm fairly certain. I know that one of two people did it."

A \$10,000 reward still awaits the first person offering information leading to the killer's arrest and conviction, he said. However, Harris wants someone to explain to him why the FBI isn't investigating.

"It was a crime that crossed a state line, which made it federal. Either way you look at it — whether she was picked up in Oklahoma and murdered in Texas or murdered in Texas and then taken to the river, they crossed the state line at the river. Oklahoma owns it from bank to bank."

He pointed out that fact during the first week of investigation, he said.

Harris knows that the FBI went over his daughter's Jeep looking for fingerprints, but he wants to know why agents

Bishop, in the Attorney General's Major Crimes Unit, said Laurel is the lead investigator with that agency. However, with Laurel off work for the day Friday, Bishop commented on the Harris case. Laurel is still working with the Fannin County Sheriff's Department and with Porter to pursue all leads, he said.

Bishop understands why the community wonders what's going on with the case and he's doing everything he can to generate information by using flyers and interviewing people, he said.

"I wish I had more answers, but through the agency, we're prohibited from giving out specific information about the case.

We're still pursuing all leads and will continue until the responsible suspect is identified.

"The killer is still out there," Bishop added, "and we ask the public and anybody with any possible information to contact the Fannin County Sheriff's Department or us and let us know.

"We can continue on with this case and we will do everything humanly possible. There's no statute of limitations on a murder."