

MONDAY

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Prosecution to continue case against Belyeu

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A 54th District Court jury is expected to deliberate on a verdict later this week in the capital murder trial of Clifton Eugene Belyeu.

Testimony resumes Monday morning.

Belyeu, 27, and Earnest Ray Moore, 21, both of Cleburne, are charged in the stabbing and shooting death of Melodie Bolton, whose body was found Dec. 10 in the bedroom of her West home.

During the first week of testimony before the jury of seven men and five women, McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell and Assistant District Attorney David Deaconson presented about 30 witnesses and introduced more than 100 crime scene photographs and a crime scene videotape.

Deaconson said Friday the state could finish presenting its case on Monday when expert witnesses are expected to testify.

Waco attorneys Ken Ables and

Fred Horner, appointed by District Judge George Allen to represent Belyeu, have indicated they will call "numerous" witnesses.

Prosecutors say Belyeu and Moore stabbed Mrs. Bolton, 35, six times and shot her in the head at close range with a shotgun during a robbery that netted hunting weapons, ammunition and jewelry valued at nearly \$15,000.

Throughout the four days of testimony, Belyeu has shown little emotion. While a videotape of the crime scene was shown and autopsy slides were projected onto a 5-foot screen, Belyeu looked straight ahead and not at the evidence being presented.

Officials with the McLennan County and Johnson County sheriff's departments testified Wednesday that a folding knife was found in a pickup parked outside Belyeu's trailer home near Cleburne. They said a box of ammunition was found inside Belyeu's trailer

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home, and three firearms and a jewelry box were found in a ditch along a nearby road.

Mrs. Bolton's husband, West automobile dealer Jerrel Bolton, testified Thursday that the .30.06-caliber deer rifle, .22-caliber rifle and 12-gauge shotgun found in the ditch were his, and apparently were stolen from his home on Dec. 10.

Bolton said the box of ammunition was one he had purchased. He said the jewelry box belonged to Mrs. Bolton, and identified several pieces of jewelry found inside.

Among the jewelry items recovered were a diamond ring and diamond Rolex watch that Bolton said his wife wore during the day.

Several West-area residents identified in court a red and white

pickup truck seen at the Bolton house the morning of Dec. 10. Belyeu's neighbor testified Belyeu was in possession of a red and white pickup on Dec. 10.

Dallas County medical examiner Dr. Roger Fossum told the jury Mrs. Bolton suffered five stab wounds to her back, a stab wound to her abdomen and a shotgun blast to the left temple directly above her eye.

From firearm soot deposits on the head cavity, he estimated Mrs. Bolton was shot from a distance of 2 feet.

If convicted, Belyeu could be sentenced to life in prison or death by injection.

Because Belyeu has a prior felony conviction and Moore does not, the co-defendants are being tried separately.