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State rests case in Belyeu trial

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Prosecutors rested their case Monday against capital murder defendant Clifton Eugene Belyeu after a forensic photography expert testified that a muddy footprint found in the home of Melodie Bolton matched a tennis shoe found at Belyeu's residence.

Dr. James Ebert of New Mexico told the 54th State District Court jury that a tennis shoe found in Belyeu's Cleburne-area trailer home on Dec. 10 "made the impression on that tile" found in the Bolton home.

"There is no likelihood any other shoe made that impression," Ebert said.

Belyeu, 27, and Earnest Ray Moore, 21, also of Cleburne, are charged in the stab-

bing and shooting death of Mrs. Bolton, whose body was found Dec. 10 in the bedroom of her home in West.

Court-appointed attorneys Ken Ables and Fred Horner are scheduled to begin presenting Belyeu's defense Tuesday morning.

Ebert told jurors that he made electronically enhanced copies of a photograph of the muddy footprint found inside the Bolton residence the afternoon of Dec. 10.

By comparing the photograph to an impression of the tennis shoe found inside Belyeu's trailer home, Ebert said he was able to find "three unique, individual correspondences."

Dr. Homer Campbell, a forensic ex-

pert from New Mexico, testified that he compared a sawed-off shotgun believed to have been used in the crime to a sawed-off shotgun barrel and stock that were found inside Belyeu's trailer the night of Dec. 10.

Campbell said, "to a reasonable certainty, all these pieces came from the same source."

Sgt. Rod Englert, a blood splatter expert with the sheriff's department in Portland, Ore., told the jury that Mrs. Bolton probably was stabbed six times while she was near the edge of her bed and was then shot in the head while she was sitting up on the bed.

"Without a doubt, the stabbing occurred first She was shot while seated with her hands tied behind her,

not being aggressive, being very passive," he said.

Englert said the blood splatter pattern inside the bedroom was consistent with a high-velocity weapon such as a sawed-off shotgun.

Englert said a denim jacket found in a truck outside Belyeu's trailer home and a pair of blue jeans confiscated from Belyeu at the time of his arrest had a blood-stain pattern "consistent with the crime scene."

An expert on blood types testified last week that stains found on the jacket and jeans were made by human blood, but the blood type could not be determined.

The co-defendants are being tried separately because Belyeu has a prior felony conviction and Moore does not.