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Grand jury 294 to hear Bolton case

2 face capital murder charges in woman's death

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A McLennan County grand jury is expected to consider evidence in the Dec. 10 slaying of West resident Melodie Lundgren Bolton when it meets Tuesday morning.

McLennan County District Attorney Vic Feazell said Monday that "all indications are (the case) will be presented," adding that he expects grand jury members to return capital murder indictments against both men accused in the slaying.

Clifton Eugene Belyeu, 37, and Earnest Ray Moore, 21, are charged with capital murder and face death by injection if convicted of killing Mrs. Bolton at her West residence during what police are describing as a random burglary.

Feazell is handling the prosecution, and said that assistant district attorneys Ned Butler, David Deaconson and Pat Murphy are assisting in preparing the cases.

Feazell said his office is sifting through physical evidence obtained by the McLennan County Sheriff's Department when Belyeu and Moore were captured.

Feazell said that forensic odontologist Homer Campbell of Albuquerque, N.M., who worked on the Lake Waco triple murder cases, has been asked to review forensic reports in Mrs. Bolton's death.

West automobile dealer Jerrel Bolton found his 35-year-old wife dead in their residence about three miles west of West on Farm-to-Market Road 1858.

Preliminary autopsy results indicated Mrs. Bolton repeatedly was stabbed in the chest and back and was shot in the left temple with a shotgun held about a foot away.

Feazell said Campbell may be used to help identify stab wounds and blood patterns. During the triple murder trials, Campbell was used to identify bite marks on the victims' bodies. Feazell said there were no bite marks on Mrs. Bolton's body.

Belyeu and Moore were arrested at a Johnson County residence less than 12 hours after the Mrs. Bolton was killed, and a shotgun believed used in the slaying was recovered.

West Justice of the Peace David Pareya ordered the pair held in McLennan County Jail without bond, and appointed Waco attorney Doug Henager to represent Moore and Waco attorney Ken Ables to represent Belyeu.

Feazell said Monday that because of Belyeu's prior robbery conviction in Collin County, Belyeu and Moore's trials will be separate.

Feazell said that he believes the first trial will be held in Waco, but added the second may force a change of venue because of publicity.

He declined to rule out the possibility that his office would offer either defendant a life sentence in exchange for a guilty plea.