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Grisly evidence displayed in Stark murder trial

• Victim's parents leave courtroom while bloodstained shirt is shown to jury

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CANTON: The parents of 36-year-old Yvonne Layne, whose throat was slashed March 31, left the courtroom in tears yesterday when their daughter's bloodstained gray sweat shirt was shown to the jury.

The second day of testimony in the death-penalty murder trial of David Thorne, 27, focused on physical evidence gathered at Layne's Alliance home, the scene of the killing.

Thorne is accused of conspiring with Joseph Wilkes to kill Layne so Thorne wouldn't have to pay

child support for a 2-year-old son he and Layne had together.

Wilkes, a 19-year-old dropout, has confessed to slashing Layne's throat with a fold-up knife.

Jennifer Bloink of the Stark County Crime Lab described the purple blood stains that saturated the front of Layne's Everlast

sweat shirt. Bloink also described a pillow case that appeared to have been used to wipe a bloody blade.

However, Dennis Florea, also of the crime lab, admitted there was no physical evidence linking Wilkes to the alleged murder weapon or the crime scene.

Dr. P.S.S. Murthy of the Stark County coroner's office described the fatal wound as an 8-inch-long,

4-inch-wide slash that severed Layne's jugular vein, several arteries and part of her windpipe.

He said that blood entered her lungs through her windpipe and she died "drowning in her own blood."

Wilkes, the prosecution's most important witness, has not yet testified. He is expected to tell jurors that Thorne gave him \$100 for a motel room the night of the killing,

then paid him \$200 when the job was done.

Wilkes will receive 30 years in prison with no chance of parole as part of a plea agreement that includes his testimony against Thorne.

Stark County Common Pleas Judge Richard D. Reinbold Jr. has told jurors he expects testimony to conclude next Wednesday.