Hossencofft clothes seized from lawyer

By Rick A. Maese
Tribune reporter

The body of Girly Hossencofft is still missing, but investigators say they have found two other important pieces of evidence as they build their murder case against Diazien Hossencofft and Linda Henning.

Albuquerque police executed a search warrant of Diazien Hossencofft's divorce attorney's office Tuesday and located clothing he forwarded to his divorce attorney, according to an affidavit.

Girly Hossencofft, 36, was in the midst of a divorce from Diazien Hossencofft when she was reported missing, and presumed dead, on Sept. 10, 1999. Diazien Hossencofft and his girlfriend, Linda Henning, were later arrested and charged with murder.

According to the search warrant affidavit filed Tuesday in state District Court:

- A tarp found along U.S. 60 near Magdalena with Girly Hossencofft's bloody clothes was purchased at an Albuquerque hardware store by Henning the day before Girly Hossencofft was last seen.

- Investigators located clothing Diazien Hossencofft had in his possession when he entered an Atlanta jail on Sept. 29, 1999. Police on Tuesday seized a pair of tennis shoes, a pair of socks, a pair of pants and a shirt from the office of his divorce attorney, according to a search warrant.

Investigators have been trying to identify a footprint found on the tarp, but other pairs of Diazien Hossencofft's shoes have not matched, according to the affidavit.

Assistant District Attorney Paul Spiers said this morning police have already begun to try to match the tennis shoes taken Tuesday with the footprint. Spiers said he could not comment on whether they match.

According to the affidavit, Hossencofft forwarded his clothing to his divorce attorney, Felissa Garcia-Kelley, when he was booked into an Atlanta jail on Sept. 29, 1999.

Hossencofft was arrested Sept. 21, 1999 in South Carolina, accused of making interstate threats by telephone. He and Henning were later charged with Girly Hossencofft's death in November 1999.

Police searched Garcia-Kelley's Downtown law office Tuesday afternoon and seized the box of clothing, along with photographs, according to the affidavit.

Garcia-Kelley did not immediately return a telephone message seeking comment this afternoon.

Garcia-Kelley was handling the Hossencoffts' divorce proceedings, and, according to the affidavit, at one point attempted to adopt Hossencofft's son, Demetri.

Investigators compared information on checks and sales receipts to determine the tarp found on N.M. 60 corresponds to the one Henning purchased, according to the affidavit.

Also found with the tarp that day were a bloody shirt, shoes and shorts, identified as belonging to Girly Hossencofft, investigators have said.

Diazien Hossencofft's defense attorney could not be reached for comment on the information contained in the affidavit. Attorney Steve Long, who is currently managing the case, said Hossencofft's attorney, Ron Koch, will not be able to keep the case due to illness.

Hossencofft is in the process of choosing another attorney, Long said.

Spiers said he expects the case to go to trial in the late spring or early summer of 2001.

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