

WISE COUNTY

Murder trial begins

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Testimony began Tuesday in 271st District Court in Decatur in the murder trial of Rhome resident Marie Kimani.

Kimani, 36, is accused of causing the death of her ex-husband, Jonathan Tumbo, by shooting him in the chest at her home in the 12600 block of Forest Lawn Road in the Shale Creek neighborhood east of Rhome on Sept. 14 of last year. Kimani pleaded “not guilty” at the beginning of the trial Tuesday afternoon.



KIMANI

In his opening argument, Assistant District Attorney Patrick Berry said Kimani and Tumbo had been arguing that evening over a woman

to alter the crime scene, including cleaning herself up, before calling for help.

Berry said Kimani's initial statement about what happened — that

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Tumbo pulled out a gun and when she grabbed it, the gun accidentally fired, killing Tumbo — is inconsistent with evidence in the case.

“He was not a faithful husband, but he did not deserve to be killed,” Berry told the jury.

Kimani's attorney, Camila Francino, argued that investigators labeled the case a murder before all the facts were known. She said the jury will also see how heartbroken Kimani was at the scene of Tumbo's death, which she argued was an accident.

“Don't get distracted. Lis-

ten to the evidence, which we believe will show Marie did not intentionally or knowingly kill Jonathan Tumbo,” she told the jury.

The state called one witness Tuesday afternoon, and testimony is scheduled to resume Wednesday morning at the Wise County Courthouse.