

# ATLANTIC COUNTY PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE

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**Theodore F. L. Housel**

**Prosecutor**

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## NEWS RELEASE

For immediate release

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**MAYS LANDING** – An Atlantic County jury convicted a homeless man as charged of aggravated manslaughter and aggravated assault today in connection with the death of a Gloucester County woman. He faces up to 30 years in prison when he is sentenced next month, Atlantic County Prosecutor Ted Housel announced.

It took a jury approximately one hour to find Troy Tate, 47, guilty of the March 25, 2007, beating death of Sheri Farren, 46, of Paulsboro. During the trial, which began on April 19, the jury heard from the prosecution that Tate and Farren had an argument and Tate beat Farren to death with a blunt object, possibly a caulking gun. The murder weapon was never recovered. Attorneys gave closing arguments today and the jury rendered its verdict by this afternoon, according to Assistant Prosecutor Diane Ruberton.

“They were arguing because she ripped one of his oversized novelty playing cards. Mr. Tate cared more about his playing cards than he did the value of Sheri Farren’s life,” Ruberton stated.

The day of the crime, a security guard at Boardwalk Hall in Atlantic City found Farren lying unresponsive on the ground in a room under West Hall just off a parking garage. An autopsy revealed that Farren died of multiple blunt force trauma to the left side of her torso, which resulted in internal bleeding from a ruptured spleen.

Tate was charged shortly after the crime. He has remained in the Atlantic County Justice Facility in lieu of bail since his arrest. After the guilty verdict Superior Court Judge Albert Garofolo revoked his bail.

Tate is scheduled for sentencing on May 28. At that time, Ruberton will make a motion for an extended term based upon the defendant’s prior criminal history.

**Anyone with information involving serious crimes is asked to call the Atlantic County Prosecutor’s Office at 609-909-7800 or go to the Prosecutor’s Office Web site at <http://www.acpo.org/tips.html> and provide information by filling out the form anonymously on the Submit a Tip page. People can also call Crime Stoppers at 609-652-1234 or 1-800-658-8477 (TIPS) or visit the Crime Stoppers Website at <http://www.crimestoppersatlantic.com/>. Crime Stoppers offers cash rewards for**

**information leading to the arrest and indictment of those who commit crimes in Atlantic County.**