

Woman Convicted In Violent Assault Case

By Guy Leonard
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A jury of 12 residents convicted a Tall Timbers woman of taking part in the brutal assault of a man who broke into a trailer where she was residing to steal drugs and money.

The two-day trial had Robin Alana Thompson facing charges of both first-degree and second-degree assault for sodomizing the victim in the case, Jason Yates, with a plunger causing serious physical damage.

During the trial, it was revealed that Yates was a drug addict who entered the trailer in Clements that Thompson

and an alleged drug dealer were living in back in January of 2007 where attempted to steal crack cocaine and money from the alleged dealer.

It was at this time, according to closing arguments from both the prosecution and the defense, that Yates was beaten as many as 50 times with a hammer by the alleged dealer.

It was after being beaten bloody that Thompson assaulted Yates further by ramming a plunger up his rectum, according to prosecutor Kevin McDevitt.

"[She] committed a horribly violent crime," McDevitt argued to the jury. "She vio-

lated him in the most disgusting way possible."

According to testimony, Yates was ejected from the trailer after being beaten and, with his pants pulled down, his testicles were squeezed with such force, McDevitt argued, that he collapsed on the trailer's porch.

It was then that the plunger assault began, he said.

"He screamed stop, she didn't stop," McDevitt said. "She pulled the plunger out then put it in his face.

"This is a chaotic situation; an extremely violent situation."

Public defender Sean Moran argued that the credibility

of the state's witnesses, who he called "people at a crack house doing their thing," was unreliable.

He also said Yates and his companions had already been to the trailer two times before the assault had occurred, received free drugs, and had consumed so much that their recollection could not be trusted.

It was the third return to the trailer and Yates' subsequent actions that early morning that lead to the violent assault.

"Who's going to break into a trailer at 4 a.m., the home of a drug dealer, and reach over him while he's

asleep to grab drugs and cash?" Moran asked the jury. "He started this whole night; he was the whole cause of these events."

The first and second-degree assault charges against the alleged dealer, Joseph Louis Herbert of Clements, were dropped by prosecutors before Thompson's jury trial, according to court documents.

Moran argued that Herbert had more motive to commit the crime than his client.

Moran also refuted the prosecution's argument that it was Thompson violently squeezing Yates' testicles that caused him to collapse on the

porch.

"His being beaten with a hammer, and consuming crack cocaine that had nothing do with his fall, it was her?" Moran argued.

But the jury took less than an hour to convict Thompson of both charges of first and second-degree assault.

Judge C. Clarke Raley ordered a pre-sentencing investigation in Thompson's case and also remanded her to the custody of sheriff's deputies.

The first-degree assault conviction could mean as many as 25 years in prison for Thompson, while the second-degree assault conviction could net her 10 years of incarceration.