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PRESS RELEASE

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REDWOOD FALLS MAN FOUND GUILTY OF ARSON AND CRIMINAL DAMAGE TO PROPERTY

REDWOOD FALLS, MN --- A Redwood County jury found Isaiah Hultquist, 23, guilty of one count of Arson in the Second Degree and one count of Criminal Damage to Property in the First Degree. The jury deliberated for approximately two and a half hours on January 16, 2025, before delivering the guilty verdicts around 7:00 p.m.

According to evidence gathered during the investigation and testimony over the course of a two day trial, on July 22, 2024, at approximately 4:47 a.m., the Redwood Falls Fire Department and officers of the Redwood Falls Police Department responded to a Recreational Vehicle (RV) fire at 605 East Bridge Street. Firefighters quickly extinguished the fire and officers and a fire marshal completed a fire investigation.

Officers located Hultquist's backpack, cell phone, wallet, identification card, and various other belongings at the scene. A bag of Dot's pretzels, a pizza slice holder, and a Lay's potato chips bag were also located around the RV. Empty containers of Fireball Whisky were located in Hultquist's backpack. Casey's located on Bridge Street surveillance footage showed Hultquist, clearly intoxicated, purchasing the food items at 12:30 a.m. A Casey's receipt confirmed Hultquist purchased the food items located near the RV.

At approximately 4:35 a.m., an officer's squad camera footage captured Hultquist walking along Bridge Street about one and a half blocks west of the RV. Twelve minutes later, two individuals called 911 to report the RV fire. The fire marshal's investigation concluded the fire was intentionally set, and excluded all possible accidental fire sources. Hultquist spoke to law enforcement and admitted to being inside the RV on the morning of the fire. The RV and the building it was located next to sustained significant fire damage and a significant amount of

personal property located in and around the RV was also destroyed as a result of the fire. The total damage caused by the fire exceeded \$40,000.

Shannon Ness, Redwood County Attorney, who prosecuted the case, told the jury in her closing argument, “This was a senseless and reckless crime. Being intoxicated does not excuse Hultquist’s actions. His decisions to start a fire in the RV not only destroyed the RV, damaged a building, and destroyed personal property – it also put every home and business in the area in danger.”

We are thankful to the Redwood Fire Department and Redwood Falls Police Department for their quick response; protecting the community from further fire damage.

Hultquist will be sentenced on March 3, 2025, at the Redwood County Courthouse.