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PRESS RELEASE

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JURY FINDS WABASSO MAN GUILTY OF FINANCIAL CARD TRANSACTION FRAUD

A Redwood County District Court jury found Darren Duane Roush, 49, of Wabasso, guilty of one count of gross misdemeanor Financial Card Transaction Fraud, County Attorney Jenna Peterson announced Thursday.

The jury deliberated for approximately a half hour on Wednesday, September 21st, before delivering the guilty verdict around 5:00 p.m.

According to the criminal complaint, testimony and evidence presented at trial, on March 10, 2020, Victim contacted the Redwood County Sheriff's Office to report his fuel card had been stolen and was used fraudulently at the Meadowland Farmers Coop in Wabasso on March 8, 2020. A review of Victim's bank records indicate \$20.62 was charged to the card on March 8, 2020 at the Meadowland Farmers Coop in Wabasso. Investigators obtained security footage from the Coop and upon review observed a dark colored sedan enter the parking lot on March 8, 2020. The sedan parked at a gas pump and a woman exited the driver's seat and a male exited the front passenger seat. Officers identified and spoke to the woman who stated she intended to pay for the fuel, but Roush, who she identified as the passenger stated he would pay for the fuel. The Witness, who is an acquaintance of Roush, thought it was unusual for Roush to pay for the fuel because he never pays for anything. The Witness watched Roush insert a card into the pump, pay for the gas, and put the card back in his wallet. Additional factual information can be found in the attached complaint.

“For the Victim and our office this conviction is worth far more than \$20.62. Especially in this case as this is not the first time Mr. Roush has been convicted of financial card transaction fraud”, Peterson said of the conviction. “While \$20.62 doesn't seem like much, fraud cases can have a much more profound effect on the lives of victims than the dollar amount indicates. If you have lost a credit card, you know how much effort goes into the process to cancel it and get a new one. When the card is stolen and used fraudulently, the process becomes even more cumbersome, time consuming, and stressful. Fraud is a personal crime and regardless of the amount it can be devastating to the life of the victim.”

Roush will be sentenced October 31st at the Redwood County Courthouse.

For more information on the rights of crime victims visit the Redwood County Attorney Crime Victim Services website: <https://redwoodcounty-mn.us/crime-victim-services/> or contact Denise Kerkhoff, Crime Victim Services Coordinator at 507-637-1399.