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PRESS RELEASE

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JURY FINDS GRANITE FALLS MAN GUILTY OF BURGLARY, THEFT

A Redwood County District Court jury found Jeremy Louis Burrell, 41, of Granite Falls, guilty of one count of Burglary in the Second Degree, one count of Possession Burglary Tools, one of Criminal Damage to Property in the Third Degree, and one count of Theft, County Attorney Jenna Peterson announced Thursday.

The jury deliberated for approximately three and a half hours on Thursday, January 19th, before delivering the guilty verdict around 7:10 p.m.

According to the criminal complaint, evidence, and testimony at trial, on February 26, 2021, at approximately 8 a.m. law enforcement received a call from Reporting Party who stated Burrell was inside Victim's residence within the City of Lamberton. Officers were aware Victim was deceased as the previous day, February 25th, 2021, they had responded to the residence for a welfare check and located Victim deceased inside the residence. Prior to leaving the residence on February 25th, officers blocked off the entrances of the residence with evidence tape.

When officers arrived at the residence on February 26th, they observed a broken basement window and a Black and Decker cordless drill laying in the bushes by the broken window. When they entered the residence, they located Burrell. In his pockets they located two pliers, one vise grip, and a small black cordless saw.

First, Burrell claimed Reporting Party gave him permission to be in the residence, but later changed his story and stated he lived in the residence and had a key. Law enforcement questioned him about the visible evidence tape. Burrell denied ever going past any evidence tape.

The family of the deceased Victim later went into the residence to gather clothing for the funeral. Upon doing so, they discovered many drawers were opened throughout the residence that were not previously opened and that some of the deceased Victim's jewelry was missing. Officers located the deceased Victim's missing jewelry in Burrell's property at the Redwood County Jail. Burrell was wearing the jewelry when he was booked into jail.

Tom Borgen Assistant Redwood County Attorney, who prosecuted the case, told the jury in his closing argument, “If he [Burrell] felt he had a right to be in the residence he would not have brought tools to access the residence, would not have tried to unscrew a window, and would not have broken another window to get in.” and, “if he was in fact holding onto the property to protect it for the decedent’s family, he passed up many opportunities to tell law enforcement or the jail that he was doing so. He only stated he was holding onto the property to protect it after an officer confronted him with the deceased Victim’s jewelry jail staff found on him.”

Burrell will be sentenced on February 27th, 2023, at the Redwood County Courthouse.