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PRESS RELEASE

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REDWOOD FALLS MAN FOUND GUILTY OF ATTEMPTED CRIMINAL SEXUAL CONDUCT, SECOND AND FIFTH DEGREE ASSAULT

REDWOOD FALLS, MN --- A Redwood County jury found Casey Love, 66, guilty of one count of Attempted Criminal Sexual Conduct in the Second Degree – Fear – Great Bodily Harm, one count of Attempted Criminal Sexual Conduct in the Second Degree – Force – Personal Injury, one count of Attempted Criminal Sexual Conduct in the Second Degree – Force, one count of Assault in the Second Degree – Dangerous Weapon and one count of Assault in the Fifth Degree. The jury deliberated for approximately three and a half hours on May 24, 2024, before delivering the guilty verdicts around 3:30 p.m.

According to evidence gathered during the investigation and testimony over the course of four days at trial, on January 22, 2022, Love and the Victim went to the Casey's General Store on Mill Street within the City of Redwood Falls. The two then traveled to the Liquor Lodge where Love purchased a 12 pack of BugLight for the Victim. Love then invited Victim to his apartment located at Lakeside Manor. Victim and Love went to his apartment to hang out and have a few drinks. Victim drank approximately three beers. Love drank Karkov Vodka out of the bottle. It began to snow and Victim did not feel comfortable driving so Love told her she could spend the night. Love told her she could sleep in his bed and he would sleep in the living room. Instead, Love stayed up all night, sitting on the edge of the bed watching t.v. and consuming alcohol.

In the morning, Love, intoxicated, slid onto the bed and attempted to touch Victim as she lay wrapped up in a blanket on the bed. Victim immediately pushed him away and asked him what he was doing. Love stopped and stood in the doorway of the bedroom. In an attempt to calm the situation and get out of the bedroom safely, Victim asked Love if he wanted to have a cigarette with her. He sat down on the edge of the bed next to her and as she reached towards the dresser to grab a cigarette, he attacked her, grabbed her right arm, held it above her head

in a choke hold and got on top of her. She heard her neck crack as he did this. While he was on top of her, holding her down, he got his hands into her pants and into her underwear. She was able to get her left arm free and push him off of her and the bed. As she attempted to get out of the bedroom, he grabbed her foot and tried pulling her back into the room. She kicked him in the face, escaped to the kitchen where she grabbed a knife and told him to stay in the bedroom. She was able to grab her possessions and get out of his apartment.

Jenna Peterson, Redwood County Attorney, who prosecuted the case, told the jury in her closing argument, "The Defendant thought he picked the perfect Victim. He thought he picked the perfect place and the perfect time. He was not counting on the fight the Victim has within her. He was counting on all of you not believing her. Maybe he thought he could get away with it because she isn't perfect. Because of the choices she made that night. Maybe he thought she wouldn't have the guts to report this. He was counting on the Victim being too afraid, too ashamed, too humiliated to testify in court. Maybe he thought to himself "they'll never believe her over me." Tell him by your verdict that he was wrong to count on that."

Love will be sentenced on August 12, 2024, at the Redwood County Courthouse.