

OFFICE OF THE COLE COUNTY PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

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NEWS RELEASE



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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Jury Finds Wayne T. Kurtz, Jr. Guilty of DWI and Resisting Arrest

JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI (May 20, 2015) – A Cole County Jury found a Jefferson City man, Wayne T. Kurtz, Jr. guilty of driving while intoxicated and resisting arrest after deliberating about two hours Tuesday. Jurors heard testimony from deputies of the Cole County Sheriff’s Department surrounding their contact with Kurtz following a crash he was involved in on Hwy 50 February 9, 2014. Shortly before midnight, his vehicle slid off the road and crashed into a bluff and a passerby alerted law enforcement of the crash. When deputies arrived, the defendant was still behind the wheel of his vehicle with the engine running trying to arrange a tow from his cell phone. Deputies observed that the defendant appeared intoxicated and requested he perform some standardized field sobriety tests. After completing one test, he became belligerent and refused to perform any more. When told he was being arrested, Kurtz resisted the arrest by pulling away from the deputy and then locking his arms under his body after they took him to the ground. Once they had him in custody and transported to the Cole County Jail, the defendant provided a breath sample indicating his blood alcohol content was 0.125.

Assistant Prosecutor Steven M. Kretzer tried the trial for the State. “I am pleased we could accomplish this verdict and commend the jury for holding Mr. Kurtz accountable for a dangerous crime like DWI that affects so many people in many random and unexpected ways,” Kretzer said. “We were fortunate that this crash did not result in serious injury to the defendant or anyone else that happened to be on that roadway that night.”

Prior to the trial, the court ruled that the defendant was a persistent DWI offender and a prior and persistent felony offender. That finding means that Kurtz’s sentencing range on one count will be up to 7 years in prison which could be concurrent on the two counts or consecutive. The court set a sentencing hearing for July 28, 2015.