

Re: Hailey Police Department Press Release for Evan Puluti Arson & Burglary Arrest

Date: June 19th, 2014

On June 17th, 2014, at approximately 10:50 PM, the Hailey Fire Department (HFD) was dispatched to 220 South 2nd Avenue (Wood River Counseling Center) for the report of "white smoke" in the area. While en-route, Blaine County Communications dispatched Wood River Fire & Rescue and Bellevue Fire due to flames coming from the building. After the fire had been extinguished and the scene was secure HFD began the process of investigating the cause of the fire, in which they believed the fire may have been caused by an act of Arson. While processing the interior of the building HFD located a burnt gas can on the inside of the building near a window in the front portion of the building. The gas can was still half-full of gasoline. After HFD located the gas can and found other evidence that led them to believe this was most-likely an act of Arson, they contacted the Hailey Police Department (HPD) and this became a joint investigation including the State Fire Marshall.

During HPD's investigation on the late morning hours of June 18th, 2014, it was discovered that the Blaine County Sheriff's Office had received "anonymous information" about a man by the name of Evan Pisa Puluti, who might have something to do with a fire at the Wood River Counseling Center. HPD found a current address for Puluti, 22 years of age, in Hailey, Idaho. HPD located Puluti at his home in Hailey and he agreed to speak with a HPD Investigator at the HPD offices. With physical evidence HFD and HPD had collected throughout the investigation, it was determined there was enough probable cause to believe Puluti had unlawfully entered the Wood River Counseling Center on the late evening hours of June 17th and intentionally started a fire within the building.

Puluti was charged and booked into the Blaine County Public Safety Facility's Detention Center on July 18th at approximately 2:00 PM for two Felonies; 1st DEGREE ARSON and BURGLARY.