

BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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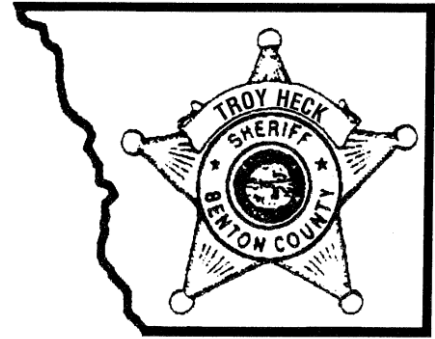
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Troy Heck, Sheriff
Neal Jacobson, Chief Deputy

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: 11/21/2025

AUTHORITY OF SHERIFF TROY HECK

The Benton County Sheriff's Office is investigating the discovery of human remains found on a wooded property in Minden Township.

On November 19th, 2025, at about 9:15 pm, the Benton County Sheriff's Office was called to a wooded property in the 1500 block of East St. Germain Street in Minden Township. Benton County Sheriff's Office records reflect that this wooded location is regularly used as an encampment area by homeless individuals. A person who had been on the property called the St. Cloud Police Department to report they had found human remains there prompting a St. Cloud Police officer to be dispatched to investigate the report. Human remains were located by the St. Cloud Police Department; however, the remains were determined to be in Minden Township, outside the city limits of St. Cloud, requiring the involvement of the Benton County Sheriff's Office.

Deputies were sent to the scene and shown to the location of the human remains. Deputies secured the scene and obtained a search warrant to search the property. Benton County detectives with the assistance of the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (MN BCA) Crime Scene Team and MN BCA special agents searched the scene, collecting the human remains and evidence connected to the remains. The human remains were transported to the Midwest Medical Examiner's Office for identification and determination of the person's cause and manner of death.

Evidence found at the scene indicated the remains had been at this location for a substantial period of time. It is not believed there is any threat to the public at this time.

Updates on this investigation will be shared as they become available.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Troy Heck".

Troy Heck
Benton County Sheriff