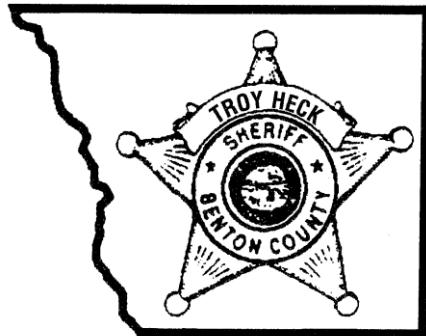


BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Troy Heck, Sheriff
Neal Jacobson, Chief Deputy

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: 01-11-2019

AUTHORITY OF SHERIFF TROY HECK

Yesterday, the Benton County Sheriff's Office arrested a man on DUI charges as he was preparing to operate a school bus in Rice.

On January 10th the Rice Police Department learned that Erik Richard Bonde (age 46 of Rice) had a driver's license that was suspended. At about 1:30 pm, an officer made contact with Bonde concerning this suspended driver's license. The officer advised Bonde of the fact that his license was suspended and told Bonde that he could not drive until his license was re-instated.

About 90 minutes later at 3:05 pm, a Rice police officer learned that Bonde had driven a van-sized school bus to the Rice Elementary School and was currently seated in the driver's seat of the bus. A Rice police officer and Benton County deputies approached the bus and made contact with Bonde. The officers reminded Bonde that his driver's license was still suspended. While speaking with Bonde, officers observed signs indicating that Bonde was intoxicated. Bonde was requested to submit to a PBT, which indicated that Bonde's blood alcohol level was above the legal limit for driving. Deputies also located a container Bonde had on the bus which held an alcoholic beverage. Bonde was placed under arrest and transported to the Benton County Jail. It should be noted that no students were in the bus while Bonde was operating it.

Bonde was issued a citation for misdemeanor DUI and Possessing an Open Bottle which requires him to appear in court in the near future to answer for these charges. As with others charged with misdemeanor DUI, Bonde was held at the jail until sober and released without bail.

Troy Heck
Benton County Sheriff