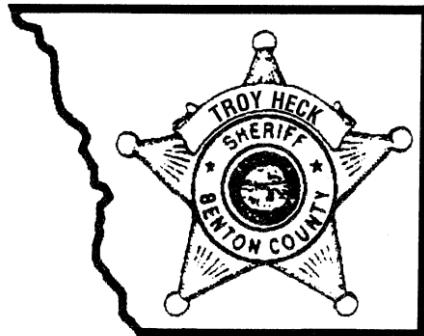


BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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Troy Heck, Sheriff
Neal Jacobson, Chief Deputy

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: 06-07-2023

AUTHORITY OF SHERIFF TROY HECK

On June 4th, 2023 the Benton County Sheriff's Office responded to a motor vehicle crash that resulted in the death of a motorcyclist.

On June 4th, 2023 at about 6:00 pm, Benton County deputies were sent to the intersection of 165th Ave NE and 65th St NE in Maywood Township on the report of a crash involving a motorcycle and a pickup truck. Responding deputies arrived on scene and found Ricky Lee Karsch, age 57 of Rice, unresponsive with life-threatening injuries. Deputies learned that Karsch was the driver and lone occupant of the motorcycle involved in the crash, a 2003 Yamaha XVS1100. Deputies and citizens on scene assisted in providing first aid to Karsch. Karsch was airlifted from the scene by North Memorial Air Care for transport to a hospital. Also present at the scene of the crash was Ryan Michael Renstrom Jr., age 20 of Maple Grove. Deputies learned that Renstrom was the driver of the 2021 Ram 1500 pickup involved in the crash. Renstrom's vehicle was pulling a boat on a trailer at the time of the crash and Renstrom reported suffering minor injuries as a result of the crash. Also in Renstrom's truck were two adult passengers, neither of whom reported any injuries.

Investigating deputies learned that prior to the crash, Karsch had been driving westbound on 65th St NE approaching the intersection with 165th Ave NE. At this intersection, the traffic on 65th St NE has the right of way due to a set of stop signs for traffic on 165th Ave NE. The investigation revealed that Renstrom, who was driving southbound on 165th Ave NE, stopped for the stop sign at 65th St NE. Evidence indicated Renstrom then failed to yield the right of way to Karsch, by proceeding southbound into the intersection in front of Karsch. A witness indicated Karsch attempted to avoid the crash, but was unable to do so, colliding with the driver's door area of Renstrom's truck. All occupants of Renstrom's truck were believed to be wearing their seatbelts and no indication of impairment was observed by deputies investigating the crash.

Following the initial investigation into this crash, deputies were advised that Karsch had subsequently died at the hospital as a result of injuries sustained in the crash. The investigation into this crash is ongoing.

The Benton County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Foley Fire Department, Foley Police Department, North Memorial Ambulance, and Minnesota State Patrol.

Troy Heck
Benton County Sheriff