

BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

581 Highway 23 NE • P.O. Box 159 • Foley, MN 56329

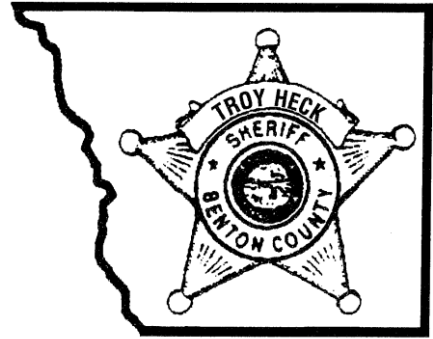
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Troy Heck, Sheriff
Neal Jacobson, Chief Deputy

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: 06/29/2022

AUTHORITY OF SHERIFF TROY HECK

UPDATE: The Benton County Sheriff's Office has identified and interviewed the person of interest in this suspicious activity complaint. The evidence gathered to this point indicates this incident was an ill-conceived effort to obtain footage for use on a social media platform rather than an attempt to engage in criminal activity.

The Benton County Sheriff's Office is seeking the public's assistance in investigating suspicious activity that occurred on June 27th, 2022 at the former King's Inn property in Watab Township.

On June 27th, 2022 at about 6:00 pm, the Benton County Sheriff's Office responded to 9450 Hwy 10 NW, Rice, MN, the former King's Inn property, to investigate a suspicious activity complaint. The adult caller advised the investigating deputy that she and 5 children were at the former King's Inn property fishing from the shore. One of the children told the investigating deputy the group had been fishing when they observed a drone come out of a wooded area in the northern portion of the King's Inn property. The child stated the drone flew above the group for a short time before flying back toward the northern portion of the property. The child said the drone returned a short time later and, on this second flight, dropped a bag of candy near the children. The deputy learned that witnesses at the scene observed a black SUV parked in the northern portion of the property at the same time the drone was seen flying in the area. This SUV was seen leaving the property hastily following the second flight of the drone. Witnesses described the SUV as a black Chevy, or possibly GMC, full-sized SUV from the early 2000s. One witness obtained a partial license plate of "FED," followed by several numbers. The witness stated the license plate appeared to consist of black letters and numbers printed on a white background. Witnesses described the lone occupant of the SUV as a white male in his mid to late 30s with short dark brown hair. The man was described as wearing a black t-shirt and blue jeans. The vehicle was seen leaving the area northbound on Hwy 10.

The Benton County Sheriff's Office is seeking the public's help in identifying the vehicle and person described by witnesses. Anyone with information about this incident or the suspects is asked to contact the Benton County Sheriff's Office at (320) 968-7201 or Tri-County Crime Stoppers at (800) 255-1301, www.tricountycrimestoppers.org.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Troy Heck'.

Troy Heck

Benton County Sheriff