

BENTON COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

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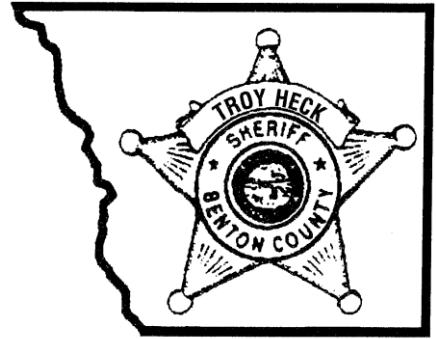
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Troy Heck, Sheriff
Neal Jacobson, Chief Deputy

PRESS RELEASE

DATE: 10-16-18

AUTHORITY OF SHERIFF TROY HECK

The Benton County Sheriff's Office today arrested a man for the death of a 7-month-old infant from Rice. James Joseph Robert Wood, 29, of St. Joseph, was arrested on charges of 3rd Degree Murder and is being held in the Benton County Jail.

At about 10:15 a.m. on October 13, 2018, deputies, firefighters and paramedics were called to a home in the 1100 block of 108th St NW, Rice, Minn. in response to the report of an infant death. The Midwest Medical Examiner's Office determined that the infant's death was a homicide resulting from blunt force trauma.

Evidence found during the course of the investigation led investigators to arrest James Joseph Robert Wood for the infant's death.

Wood was in a significant relationship with the infant's mother and had arrived at the home on the evening of October 12, 2018, with plans to stay the weekend at the residence. Wood was arrested during the early morning hours of October 13, 2018, by the Morrison County Sheriff's Office for DUI and 4th Degree Assault and held in their custody until he was arraigned on the DUI charges this morning. Wood was arrested following his court appearance and transported to the Benton County Jail.

The Benton County Sheriff's Office and Minnesota BCA are continuing the investigation into this homicide. Anyone with information about this crime or the suspect 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