



News Release

FALL RIVER COUNTY

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FALL RIVER COUNTY, SD

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: April 26, 2024

Missing Person Found Deceased in Minnekahta Valley

On, Tuesday April 23, 2024 at 5:05PM, the Fall River County Sheriff's Office responded to a report of a deceased individual in a secluded area in Minnekahta valley. The initial report was made by a neighbor of the property owner who had been out driving his UTV when he came across a black Kia Forte and observed a deceased individual nearby.

Deputies were escorted down a service road to where a deceased female was located. She was identified as Johnna Bense, a 59-year-old resident of Custer. She had been reported missing from that jurisdiction on April 16, 2024. Preliminary findings indicate that her vehicle became disabled, and she was traveling on foot when she passed away.

An autopsy will be conducted to determine the cause of death as there were no obvious indications. Foul play is not suspected.

The Fall River County Sheriff's Office would like to send our sincere condolences to the family and friends of Johnna Bense.