



# Hancock County Sheriff's Office

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Scott M. Bentzinger  
*Sheriff*

Jordan Hawes  
*Chief Deputy*

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## PRESS RELEASE

July 15, 2020

On Friday, July 10th, 2020 at approximately 11:42pm Hancock Sheriff's Deputies responded to a vehicle on fire at the intersection of County Road 850 North and County Road 1800 East. Preliminary investigation shows the vehicle, a 2016 Kia utility, was traveling westbound on County Road 850 North and failed to stop at the stop sign at the "T" intersection. The vehicle proceeded through the intersection, entered the ditch and struck a fence post, catching fire. Carthage Fire Department extinguished the flames and located the driver still inside the vehicle.

Coroner Kendall Beals conducted an autopsy on Sunday, July 12th and identified the driver of the vehicle through dental records as Thomas Ernst, 63, of Quincy, Illinois.

The Hancock County Sheriff's Office was assisted by the Carthage Fire Department, Hancock County EMS, and Hancock County Coroner Kendall Beals.