



# PONDERA COUNTY SHERIFF

**Robert C. Skorupa**

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Friday March 17, 2023

Pondera County Sheriff's Office

Press Release – for immediate Release

Friday evening Pondera County Deputies were notified that the suspect in a murder had fled Great Falls and was driving black GMC truck.

At about 7:45 P.M. a Pondera County deputy found that truck on highway 44 near Conrad. When deputies attempted to contact the suspect he fled west with deputies in pursuit. During the pursuit the suspect fired a pistol at the pursuing deputies. The pursuit went through the town of Valier and stopped at the Valier Pavilion boat ramp where deputies were able to block his escape.

By that time assistance from the Great Falls Police Department, Cascade County Sheriff's Office, Montana Highway Patrol, Glacier and Toole County Sheriff's Office, Conrad Police, Blackfeet Law Enforcement, Bureau of Indian Affairs and the FBI were on scene to assist. For three hours deputies and negotiators attempted to work with the suspect to surrender peacefully but at about 11:00 P.M. he shot himself.

Sheriff Skorupa said that normal procedure is being followed and the Montana Division of Criminal Investigation will be conducting the investigation into the suspect's death. He will be sent to the Montana Crime Lab for autopsy and a Coroner from another county will conduct a Coroner's Inquest at a later date.

Sheriff Skorupa thanks the agencies that assisted in this unfortunate event and commends the professional work of Pondera County Deputies. "It makes me very proud to know this community has deputies that work hard all the time to make this county a safer place."

