



## Minnehaha County Sheriff's Office

On September 17<sup>th</sup>, 2025 at 0436 am a Minnehaha Deputy Sheriff was parked in a marked vehicle off the roadway on a field approach near Highway 38 and Western Ave in Hartford. A vehicle west bound on Highway 38 leaving Hartford left the west bound lane crossed the entire east bound lane and struck the Deputy's vehicle at a high rate of speed. The Deputy's vehicle was parked on the South Side of Highway 38 facing east, completely off the roadway. Other Sheriff's Deputies and Highway Patrol Troopers responded to the crash and the detailed investigation is being conducted by the SD Highway Patrol.

Initial information obtained on scene indicates the driver of the second vehicle was Kira Elizabeth Blackbear DOB 02/26/82. While on scene investigators located a drug pipe in plain view on the seat next to Blackbear which field tested positive for methamphetamine and Marijuana was also located inside Blackbear's vehicle. Blackbear told initial responding deputies that the last time she used methamphetamine was yesterday (9/16/25). In August 2024, Blackbear had been sentenced to serve 5 years in the SDWP with 2 years suspended, leaving 3 years to serve on drug charges. on 8/5/24. Blackbear was released from the Women's Prison to Parole on 6/28/25.

Both Blackbear and the Deputy involved were transported to hospitals. The Deputy involved was checked by medical staff and not admitted to the hospital. Blackbear's status is unknown at this time. Once the investigation is completed the information will be forwarded to the Minnehaha County State's Attorney for a decision on charges. A photo of the Deputy's vehicle is below.



Thank you,

Mike Milstead  
Sheriff, Minnehaha County



Law Enforcement Center  
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