



RECOGNIZED for saving a life are detention center employees: Irlick Moreno, Kade Lovelady, David Cesar, Colton Eichman and Tiffany Johnson. Pictured with the detention center employees are Sheriff Nicholas Sowers, Deputy Cameron Beakley and Undersheriff Michael Miles.

Sheriff recognizes detention employees with Life Saving Awards

Five Rice County Detention Center employees were recognized by Sheriff Nicholas Sowers with Life Saving Awards. Detention Officer Colton Eichman, Sergeant David Cesar, Deputy Irlick Moreno, Detention Officer Kade Lovelady and Captain Tiffany Johnson were recognized for their

swift, skillful and compassionate response that saved the life of an individual in their care. June 8, 2025, an inmate attempted to take his life by hanging at the Rice County Detention Center. These detention officers responded with urgency, clarity and courage.

Sowers described their actions as rooted in training and sharpened by instinct, saying, “In those crucial seconds, they didn’t hesitate. They acted decisively, and because of it, the inmate is alive today.” After the medical interventions were complete, Sowers said he witnessed compassion

from these individuals. “I saw worry etched on faces, tears that couldn’t be held back, and a level of emotional investment that went far beyond the call of duty,” Sowers said. “These men and women didn’t just save a life. They cared about the life they saved.”

Celebrate your freedom by driving safely

Every year, the Fourth of July holiday ranks as one of the deadliest periods on the nation’s roads. From 2019 to 2023, there were 2,653 traffic crash deaths in the United States during the holiday period, 1,679 of whom were the driver. Thirty-eight percent (643) of those drivers were drunk. Of the 1,679 drivers killed, the 21-34 age group had the highest percentage (48%) of drunk drivers. “Impaired driving is never acceptable. For some people, even one drink is too many to drive safely. While everyone is making plans with friends and family for Fourth of July festivities, it is crucial to also make plans for a sober ride home and completely rule out drinking and driving,” said Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office Director Tenille Kimberlin. In Kansas in 2023, there were 2,200 crashes involving a driver impaired by alcohol. In those crashes, 1,258 that damaged property, 1,188 people were injured, and 67 people died. Drivers should be safe during this Independence Day holiday by planning ahead if they intend to drink. They shouldn’t wait until after drinking to plan how to get somewhere. Impairment clouds a person’s judgment. Drivers should secure a designated sober driver or call a taxi or rideshare for a sober ride home. If a driver finds they are unable to drive, they should give their keys to a sober driver so that person can get them home safely. When a friend has been drinking and is considering driving, friends should be proactive — take away the keys and help them get a sober ride home. If anyone spots a drunk driver, contact local law enforcement. Drive 100% sober, because Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving

Make it a safe summer: be aware of fire and burn hazards

Barbequing on the grill, making s’mores around the firepit and telling stories around the campfire are all great ways to spend quality time outdoors in the summertime. But it’s important to remember any fire can cause serious injuries to children. In fact, summer is the season when there is an increase in emergency room visits due to fire and burn injuries. Safe Kids Kansas and the Kansas State Fire Marshal (KSFM) remind

families to take simple steps to make sure your, “What I Did This Summer,” story doesn’t include a trip to the emergency department. Data from 2019-2023 shows that as summer approaches, there is an increase in the number of fire and burn emergency department visits in Kansas. Emergency department visits more than doubled during this period compared to winter months. The highest number of emergency department visits oc-

curred in July. “Many families enjoy summer traditions that include fire, such as grilling food and making s’mores,” Cherie Sage, Safe Kids Kansas, said. “Be fire smart when you head outdoors and be prepared to take extra precautions when you may be far from a water source.” Follow these fire safety tips: •Actively supervise children around all fires and fireworks. Your safest option is to attend a public fireworks show and leave it to the professionals. •Teach kids how to stop, drop and roll if their clothing catches fire.

- Create a three-foot child and pet-free safety zone around any fire pit, chiminea or grill.
- Only use grills outdoors. Position your grill at least 10 feet away from your home and away from any overhanging eaves, branches or deck railings.
- Keep your grill clean by removing grease or fat buildup to prevent flare-ups.
- Dispose of coals after they cool off in a metal can.
- Keep plenty of water nearby and have a shovel for throwing sand or dirt on the fire if it gets out of control.
- Build campfires at least 25 feet away from anything that can burn.

- Never leave grills, fire pits, patio torches or campfires unattended. Ensure fires are fully extinguished before you leave the area.
- When extinguishing the fire, drown it with water. If you do not have water, use dirt as an alternative. Continue adding and stirring until all material is cooled. However, do not bury coals, as they can smolder and re-ignite.
- “Summer in Kansas brings backyard barbecues, campfires, and fireworks – but also an increased fire risk,” Kansas Fire Marshal Mark Engholm said. “Take a moment to review your escape plan, keep grills and fire pits away from

structures, never leave flames unattended, and leave fireworks to the professionals.” Safe Kids Kansas and the KSFM urge parents to follow these safety tips to reduce the risk of fire injuries. Ensure you install and regularly test smoke and carbon monoxide alarms in your home. Plan and practice your home fire escape plan frequently – children are more likely to do what they’ve practiced during an emergency. For more information about fire safety, visit safekidskansas.org or find us on Facebook and Instagram @safekidskansas.

County—

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programs, estate planning, grief counseling and more. In other business commissioners: •Discussed the need to update landfill fees due to rising transfer costs, but learned they could not be changed for this tax year because an updated resolution would have needed to be published by July 1. This allows more time to research what other similar sized communities are charging and gives an opportunity to update definitions of the various categories (light commercial, heavy commercial, etc.); •Authorized purchase of cover material from Stone Sand for sand sealing in the southwest quadrant of the county at \$14 per ton for approximately 2,000 tons not to exceed \$30,000; •Heard about wind damage to the roof of the e-waste building at the landfill. Robl said he had received a quote for \$15,750 to repair the roof, to be covered by in-

surance; •Approved employee status forms for sheriff, detention and communications as presented; and, •Approved a contract with Joe Pennycuff to be the county’s appraiser.

Stage—

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harmonies. Stay for the story. And leave with a little more hope—Sterling style,” Dennis Dutton concluded. While family is at the center of “The Spitfire Grill” the production carries a PG13 rating and may not be appropriate for those 12 and under due to some discussion of adult themes as well as some strong language. Tickets for the Sterling Community Theatre Troupe’s musical “The Spitfire Grill” are \$15 for adults and \$5 for students and are available at the door.

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a musical

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Lyrics & Book by Fred Alley
Based on the film by Lee David Zlotoff

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• June 26	• July 17
• June 30	• July 23

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NOTICE:

Deadlines for advertising and legal in The Bulletin for the

Thurs., July 17 issue will be 12 noon

Mon., July 7.