



SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

SHERIFF'S OFFICE
GARY STEED
Sheriff

141 WEST ELM * WICHITA, KANSAS 67203 * TELEPHONE: (316) 383-7264 * FAX: (316) 660-3248

MEDIA RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

AUGUST 26, 2006

AGENCY

SEDGWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

LOCATION:

WICHITA/SEDGWICK COUNTY, KANSAS

TELEPHONE:

(316) 383-7264

CONTACT:

UNDERSHERIFF ROBERT HINSHAW

AT APPROXIMATELY 10:50 P.M. ON FRIDAY NIGHT, AUGUST 25, 2006, AN INMATE IN THE SEDGWICK COUNTY DETENTION FACILITY WAS FOUND DEAD. A DETENTION DEPUTY PERFORMING A "HEADCOUNT" OF THE INMATES OBSERVED THE INMATE IN HIS CELL LYING ON THE FLOOR, UNRESPONSIVE. THE INMATE WAS ALONE IN HIS CELL AND THE PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION INDICATES THAT THIS MOST PROBABLY WAS A SUICIDE BY ASPHYXIATION. THE KANSAS BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION WAS NOTIFIED AND RESPONDED TO THE SCENE TO CONDUCT THE INVESTIGATION IN CONJUNCTION WITH INVESTIGATORS FROM THE SEDGWICK COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE, DISTRICT ATTORNEY'S OFFICE AND

M-O-R-E

THE SEDGWICK COUNTY REGIONAL FORENSIC SCIENCE CENTER. AN AUTOPSY WAS PERFORMED THE MORNING OF AUGUST 26, 2006, HOWEVER THE COMPLETE RESULTS ARE NOT AVAILABLE AT THIS TIME.

THE NAME OF THE INMATE WILL NOT BE RELEASE UNTIL AFTER 8:00 A.M. ON SUNDAY, AUGUST 27, 2006 IN ORDER TO ALLOW TIME FOR NOTIFICATION TO THE FAMILY OF THE DECEASED INMATE. THE NAME MAY THEN BE OBTAINED BY CALLING SHERIFF RECORDS AT (316)383-7352.

TO DATE SO FAR IN 2006, THERE HAVE BEEN TWO DEATHS IN THE DETENTION FACILITY – BOTH RULED AS NATURAL BY THE CORONER. IN THE SAME TIME FRAME THERE HAS BEEN APPROXIMATELY ELEVEN (11) ATTEMPTED SUICIDES AND NO SUCCESSFUL SUICIDES. IN 2005 THERE WERE NO SUICIDES AND APPROXIMATELY TWENTY-NINE (29) SUICIDE ATTEMPTS. THE LAST SUCCESSFUL SUICIDE IN THE DETENTION FACILITY OCCURRED IN 2004.

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