

Sheriff's office begins program for teen drivers

(KNZA)--The Brown County Sheriff's Office has begun a new program to educate teens about safe driving.

Brown County Sheriff John Merchant said Sgt. Brian Guilliams wanted to increase awareness in teen drivers about the concerns of reckless driving and felt using a new Ford Raptor pickup truck would make a good connecting point. The truck was added to the Sheriff's Department patrol fleet over a year ago.

Merchant said both Hiawatha and Horton High Schools supported the program. Sgt. Guilliams was able to present a class at the Hiawatha High School before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Merchant said In order to make the program a reality, donations were raised to offset the cost of what they would normally pay for a patrol vehicle. With the donations and support that was raised, the Sheriff's Office portion was around \$15,000--less than half the cost of what patrol vehicles usually run.

The United States Deputy Sheriff's Association (USDSA), Hero Fund USA, Carl's Body Shop, Hiawatha Ford, HD Repair, Kansas Traffic Safety Resource Office and the Rodney and Sandy Paden family donated over \$35,000 in cash or services to bring the program to a reality.

The sponsors are listed on the bottom portion of the sides of the truck.