

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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JOINT STATEMENT BY THE CITY OF WAMEGO AND THE FAMILY OF T. WYATT BALMAN, DECEASED

Wamego, Kansas, October 12, 2021 – Thomas Wyatt Balman (Wyatt) was an exceptional young man who was loved by many, many people. He was a graduate of Manhattan High School and an Academic All-American collegiate swimmer at Soka University in southern California.

On October 13, 2020, Wyatt, along with his sister and friends, visited the City of Wamego's Indoor Aquatic Center to swim laps. While swimming, Wyatt suffered a medical emergency and fatally drowned. After Wyatt's death, the City of Wamego made significant changes to its program for training and supervising its lifeguards and the standards that will be applied to its lifeguards in the future. A full accounting of these changes can be found on Wamego's website: <https://www.wamego.org/recreation/aquatic-center>.

It is important to both the City of Wamego and the Balman Family that the community know that neither Wyatt, nor any of the other swimmers at the pool that evening, were misbehaving or impaired in any way whatsoever.

To further support aquatic safety instruction, the Balman Family has established the Thomas Wyatt Balman Memorial Aquatics Fund. The public is invited to learn more about the fund by visiting: <https://mhkaquatics.com/in-memoriam>.

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