

Linn County Sheriff Yon offers holiday safety tips

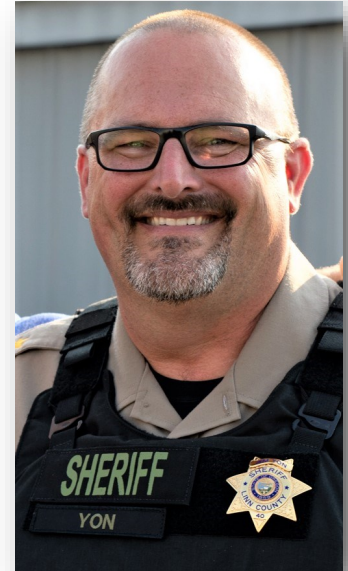
As mid-valley residents head out to area campgrounds to enjoy the 4th of July weekend, Linn County Sheriff Jim Yon offers some tips to help keep your belongings safe:

- **Lock your vehicle.** When venturing off on an early morning hike, lock your personal belongings out of sight in your vehicle or better yet, carry them with you. If you are tent camping, valuables can easily be stolen.
- **Get an extra set of eyes.** If you leave your campsite for a day trip, ask your neighbors to keep an eye on it for you.
- **Lock items to a tree.** If you have an expensive grill or bikes, secure them with a cable locked around a nearby tree.
- **Properly store your food.** Thieves can also take the form of furry critters. Store your food in airtight containers. This not only keeps it fresh, it prevents animals from noticing its scent and raiding your campsite.
- **Keep an eye on Mother Nature.** Mother Nature can quickly whip up a summer storm. Make sure your belongings are properly secured. Store expensive items in your car or RV. Properly stake items to help keep them secure from strong winds.

- **Dry your gear during the day.** If you have expensive camping gear that needs to air out, do it during the day. Never assume you can leave it out overnight and expect it to be there in the morning.

- **Leave it at home.** Camping provides an opportunity to enjoy the outdoors with family and friends. Leave the tablet or laptop at home and enjoy a simpler life.

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Sheriff Jim Yon