

Easton man sentenced in fatal crash involving wife, UTV

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CASE NUMBER: 2023-CR-000430

LEAVENWORTH, Kan. --- An Easton man who was intoxicated when he crashed a UTV, killing his passenger, has been sentenced.

According to court documents, Gregory A. Zule, 59, was under the influence of alcohol on the evening of July 15, 2023, when he crashed the UTV he was driving while in rural Leavenworth County. Following the crash, Zule told deputies he swerved to miss a deer, which is when his UTV rolled. Zule's wife died in the crash.

Zule previously pled guilty to one count of involuntary manslaughter and one count of driving under the influence. During today's hearing, a judge sentenced Zule to 32 months in the Kansas Department of Corrections for involuntary manslaughter and six months in the Leavenworth County Jail for DUI. The judge suspended both sentences and ordered Zule to serve 36 months of probation. Before sentencing, dozens of letters displaying support for Zule were received by the court, and several members of Zule's family addressed the court, asking that Zule be granted probation.

Leavenworth County Attorney Todd Thompson said, "This is one of those horrible situations where tragedy occurred. While intoxicated, operating any vehicle, even a UTV, can lead to a DUI conviction or even death."