



18 East 22nd St.
Kearney, NE 68848-1180
(308) 233-3214
www.cityofkearney.org

CITY OF KEARNEY **PRESS RELEASE** ***For Immediate Release***

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Point of Contact: Derek Luke, Lieutenant (308) 233-5256

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Fatality Car Crash – South Kearney

On Thursday, September 1, 2022, at approximately 8:04 p.m., the Kearney Police Department along with Buffalo County Sheriff's Office, Kearney Volunteer Fire Department and CHI Good Samaritan Hospital EMS responded to a car crash at Platte Road and 2nd Avenue / Highway 44 in south Kearney.

Preliminary investigation indicates a school bus was traveling northbound on 2nd Avenue turning left onto Platte Road, crossing southbound 2nd Avenue. A 1993 Cadillac was traveling southbound on 2nd Avenue as the bus turned, the Cadillac struck the front passenger corner of the bus, both vehicles came to rest in the south west corner of the intersection. An additional vehicle which was stopped on eastbound Platte Road, was struck receiving minor damage.

The driver of the school bus, belonging to Cozad Community Schools, was identified as 68-year-old Torrey Kloppenborg of Cozad.

The driver of the Cadillac was identified as 19-year-old Jacob Harms of Hildreth. The passenger in the Cadillac, was identified as 17-year-old Britney Royle from the Axtell area. Both Harms and Royle were extricated from the vehicle by KVFDF firefighters. EMS professionals performed lifesaving efforts on Royle at the scene. Sadly, Britney Royale was pronounced dead at the scene as a result of injuries sustained during the crash. Harms was transported to CHI Good Samaritan Hospital by ambulance and later flown to Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha with non-life-threatening injuries.

The school bus was transporting the Cozad High School girls' softball team. There were 12 students and 4 adults on the bus. Two adults were transported to Kearney Regional Medical Center by ambulance and 3 students were transported to Kearney Regional Medical Center by private auto, all were treated and released.

"While this crash remains under investigation, myself and the entire Kearney Police Department express our sincere condolences to all those effected by this incident. While the loss of life in any motor vehicle crash is tragic, it is compounded when young people are involved. I'm confident our Police Investigators and Police Officers will work tirelessly to determine the cause and forward findings to the Buffalo County Attorney's Office. We ask for patience, as this complex investigation progresses. I'm thankful for the cooperation and assistance provided by our allied law enforcement agencies and public safety professionals."
– Chief Bryan D. Waugh

The Kearney Police/Buffalo County Fatal Accident Investigation Team (FAIT), Kearney Volunteer Fire Department, Buffalo County Sheriff's Office, Buffalo County Attorney's Office all assisted with the accident investigation.

Check out our web site at www.cityofkearney.org.

We are sending this News Release as a service to the news media and citizens of Kearney.

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