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Woman Charged in Fatal Buggy Crash Waives Hearing

(KTNC) -A Pawnee City woman accused of driving a car involved in a fatal collision with a horse and buggy waived her preliminary hearing Thursday.

56-year-old Vivian Cockrell was bound over to Pawnee County District Court on a felony charge of motor vehicle homicide. Her next court date is scheduled for November 18.

Authorities say she was driving a vehicle that collided with the back of an Amish buggy early on July 20. Seventeen year-old Ruben Yoder was killed in the crash and his 20-year-old sister, Fannie Yoder was critically injured.

The Lincoln Journal-Star reports that Fannie Yoder is continuing to improve from her injuries.

Authorities say Cockrell was driving on a learner's permit and did not have a driver 21 years old or older with her as is required.

Pawnee County Attorney Jennifer Stehlik Ladman told the Journal-Star that a misdemeanor charge of misuse of a learner's permit was dismissed Thursday, but will be re-filed in District Court.

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