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(Neb.)-Panhandle Man Waives Jury Trial In Passenger's Death

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 04/19/2012 05:40 PM

SCOTTSBLUFF, Neb. (AP) - A Nebraska Panhandle man charged with vehicular homicide and manslaughter in the death of a passenger wants his case to be heard by a judge, not a jury.

Nineteen-year-old Bryan Bloom, of Henry, waived his right to a jury trial during a pre-trial conference on Thursday in Scotts Bluff County District Court.

Bloom was driving a van to Torrington, Wyo., on June 20, 2011, when a passenger, 18-year-old Johrdan Stone, stuck his head out the window and was hit by a road sign.

Bloom told police he didn't know Stone had been hurt until they arrived at a home in Torrington. Stone died of neck and head injuries.

Officials say Bloom was driving drunk. Court documents show Stone also had been drinking.

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