

Motorcycle accident claims life

Written by Russ Pankonin, The Imperial Republican

The Wauneta, Neb. community got rocked with yet another tragedy Monday afternoon, May 21 when Wauneta native Terrin Barnard, 28, died after losing control of the motorcycle he was driving.

According to Chase County, Neb. Sheriff Kevin Mueller, Barnard was northbound on Old Highway 6 just north of Wauneta.

Mueller said Barnard had just passed a vehicle as he was heading into the first curve on the old highway, just north of the intersection with Avenue 347.

He said Barnard lost control of the 2009 Yamaha motorcycle and entered the east ditch and was ejected from the bike. Mueller said Barnard was wearing a helmet when the accident occurred.

Mueller said his office received the emergency call requesting an ambulance at 5:40 p.m. Monday afternoon.

The Wauneta EMS responded to the call and transported Barnard to Chase County Community Hospital.

He was sent via air flight to Good Samaritan in Kearney, Neb. but died en route to the hospital.

Barnard was a 2002 graduate of Wauneta-Palisade High School. He was living in Fruita, where he worked on natural gas drilling rigs in the region.

He had returned home to see his younger brother, Kevin, and his parents, Todd and Teresa. He was planning to stay over the weekend to attend his 10th class reunion.

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In addition to his immediate family, he is survived on his father's side by two aunts and two uncles, Kala Yost and husband Brad of Holyoke, Jana Sherer and husband Richard of Irmo, S.C., Eric Barnard of Champion, Neb. and Kyle Barnard of Fruita; and grandparents, Doug and Shari Barnard of Lamar, Neb. and Elaine Leatherman of Mound Ridge, Kan.

Funeral services are pending.

He loved life

In describing his son, Todd Barnard said Terrin loved life and lived accordingly.

He loved his music and played both the drums and the guitar. "He had a passion for helping people," his dad said. And he especially loved his motorcycles, he added.

A picture on Terrin's Facebook shows him on a motorcycle, the wind blowing through his hair, his shirt fluttering back around him and a big smile on his face.

That picture really exemplifies the way Terrin approached life, his dad said.

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