

Two Amish killed in Saturday accident

Written by George Browning

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The cause of an accident at the intersection of State Road 160 and Liberty Church Road Saturday morning is not known.

Washington County Sheriff's Deputy Roger Newlon said brothers, Noah Wengerd, 19 and Menno Wengerd 7, were traveling west on State Road 160 when the buggy they were driving was struck in the rear by a 2002 Ford Explorer.

The explorer was driven by Jetta Mull, 31.

Newlon said the brothers were just leaving a residence where they had picked up chainsaw chains that they recently had sharpened.

While there was plenty of fog in the area Saturday morning, Newlon said it wasn't a factor in the accident.

"It was actually pretty clear and on a straight stretch where the accident occurred," he said.

Newlon said Mull, who was also traveling west bound, didn't see the buggy and struck it in the rear.

Newlon said alcohol was not a factor, but the cause of the accident is still being investigated.

Scene reconstructionist from the Indiana State Police were called to the scene. Newlon said it will take a week or more to get results from that back.

"Once I get the information from them, I will see what we are going to do from there," Newlon said. "They will come in and pin-point speed and all that."

The speed limit on the stretch of road according to Newlon was 45 miles per hour.

Mull was not injured in the accident.

Newlon said the accident happened at 9 a.m. And the call came into the sheriff's department at 9:04 a.m.

Saturday's accident is a good opportunity to warn motorists to be aware of Amish travelers in the community.

Newlon said they have reflectors on the back of their buggies and they usually travel on the shoulder of the road if one is provided.

He said he thinks the best approach for avoiding accidents such as this is for motorists to be informed about where the Amish in the community live.

"We have a lot of Amish out in the area where this happened on 160 between State Road 56," he said. "People need to know when they are in those areas there are likely to be buggies on the road."

Assisting on the scene were the ISP reconstructionist, Washington County Coroner Rondale Brishaber, Washington County EMTs and Franklin Township First Responders.