

Charges filed in fatal Jefferson Co wreck

(KNZA)--Charges have been filed in connection with a head-on collision over the weekend in Jefferson County that claimed the life of a Kansas Air National Guard airman.

According to court documents, 35-year-old Manuel Enriquez, of Kansas City, Missouri, was formally charged Tuesday in Jefferson County District Court with a felony count of involuntary manslaughter while driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs. In addition, Enriquez was charged with a misdemeanor count of driving under the influence.

He made his first appearance Tuesday in a Jefferson County courtroom to hear the charges.

The Kansas Highway Patrol said Enriquez was driving a pickup truck on U.S. 24 Highway in southern Jefferson County late Saturday night when he crossed the center line and collided head-on with a car driven by 23-year-old Cheyanne Branson, of Diana, Texas.

Branson was pronounced dead at the scene. Enriquez was not hurt.

The Kansas Air National Guard said Branson served as a career development specialist with the 190th Air Refueling Wing for more than four years.

Enriquez remains in the Jefferson County Jail, held on a \$150,000 bond.

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