

## Local assault followed by suicide UPDATED

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

Thursday, 22 September 2011 19:03 - Last Updated Thursday, 22 September 2011 19:06

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8-year-old boy flags down officers for help.

UPDATE: The condition of a Colorado woman, who was beaten the night of Sept. 24 on Highway 30 east of Gothenburg, has been upgraded to fair condition, according to local police chief Randy Olson.

After she was assaulted by her boyfriend, the woman was taken by ambulance to Gothenburg Memorial Hospital and later transferred to Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney.

Olson said Thursday that alcohol is believed to have been a factor in the assault. He added that there didn't seem to be any history of violence in the relationship.

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### ORIGINAL

A Colorado man is dead and a woman injured after an assault on east Highway 30 following a wedding reception the couple attended near Gothenburg.

Close to midnight Saturday, Gothenburg police officers and local fire fighters responded to a report of a one-vehicle accident.

Upon arrival at the scene, east of Horizon Ag, police chief Randy Olson said officers were flagged down by an 8-year-old boy who directed them to his injured mother who was lying in the westbound lane of the highway with severe facial and head injuries.

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The woman, whose name has not been released, was transported by ambulance to Gothenburg Memorial Hospital and later to Good Samaritan Hospital in Kearney.

On Tuesday, Olson said her condition was guarded.

After investigating, Olson said the 42-year-old woman—of Castle Rock, CO—had been traveling with her son and boyfriend.

The boyfriend was identified as 39-year-old Jason Eugene Melledy of Peyton, CO.

He said Melledy stopped the vehicle east of Gothenburg, removed the woman and began striking her face and head with his fists.

During the assault, Olson said the woman instructed her son to run away which he did. He hid in a ditch until he saw the officers arrive.

Olson said after the assault, Medley drove his 2008 Nissan Armada SUV at a high rate of speed off the roadway where the vehicle rolled several times into an irrigation ditch near the back lot of TES Truck & Equipment Sales, Inc. (formerly G-TEC Inc.)

Melledy was injured in the crash, he said, but managed to exit the vehicle and walked to the 900 block of 16th Street where he committed suicide.

Olson said the 8-year-old boy is with his mother's parents.

Local police officers were assisted by the Dawson County Sheriff's Office and the Nebraska State Patrol.

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