Survivor's condition improving after accident kills three

Written by Elizabeth Barrett Thursday, 01 November 2012 14:12 -



A loving and giving person is how one family member describes 45-year-old Elaine Grasz who was killed Thursday morning west of Maxwell.

Following a collision on an icy Highway 30 overpass, Elaine and two Brady school students—Conner Gentry, 14, and his brother, Colten, 10, of North Platte—died when their cars collided.

The brothers were described as full of energy and who loved to have fun, according to Brady principal Bruce Hird.

Elaine's 46-year-old husband, Terry, who was in critical condition following the accident, is now stable and improving, according to his sister-in-law Jeannine Davis of Brady.

According to the Lincoln County's sheriff's office, Terry and Elaine were westbound in a 1994 Chevrolet Lumina and on their way to work in North Platte.

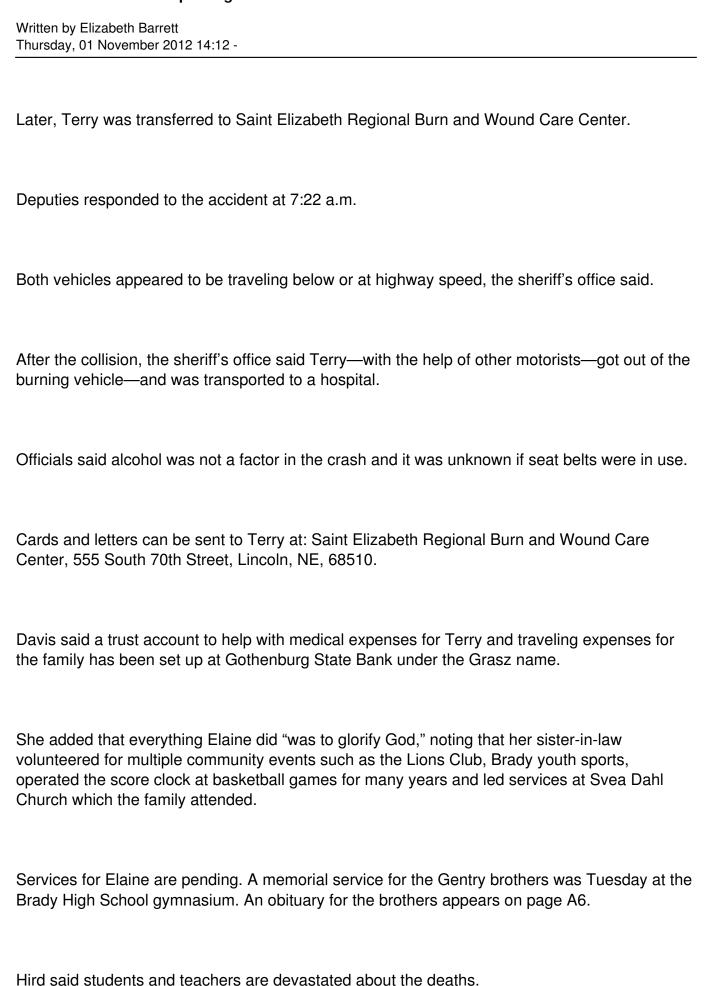
The Gentry brothers, in a 1999 Kia Sportage, were eastbound and on their way to school in Brady.

Conner, who had a student permit, was driving when the Kia hit ice and he lost control, investigators said. The car slid into the westbound lane on top of the railroad overpass where it struck the Lumina driven by Terry.

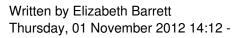


Terry was taken to Great Plains Regional Mdical Center and later airlifted to Bryan LGH West where he underwent surgery.

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Both Gentry boys were good students and brought much to the classroom, he said.

"Conner was kind of ornery but was kind and good and had many positive and good qualities," Hird said. "Colten was as sweet a kid as you're ever going to know and tender hearted."

Dealing with the deaths continues to be tough, he said, but "we're getting through it."

Following the accident, counselors were brought in from schools in Gothenburg, Hershey, Eustis-Farnam, Maxwell and Educational Service Unit 10 in North Platte, Hird said. Pastors from Brady and neighboring churches also offered support.

A counselor from Stapleton was available at the school Wednesday (today).