

# *BV student killed, four injured in accident*

By Natalie Spray  
News Reporter

DUNLAP -- Boyer Valley High School freshman Kirk Sturgill, 15, died following a head-on car collision that occurred about 4 p.m. Tuesday night, May 11 before a scheduled home track meet.

The fatal accident occurred on Aspen Avenue, just two miles south of 2450th Street, along the Shelby and Harrison County lines. A 1987 Ford Ranger driven by BV sophomore Douglas Nichols, 17, was northbound approaching a hillcrest, while the 2001 Saturn driven by Sturgill was southbound approaching the same hill when the collision occurred.

Police reports indicate Sturgill's vehicle struck the Nichols vehicle. An investigation is still pending.

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Rescue squads from Dunlap Earling, Dow City and Crawford County were called to the scene. Both vehicles were listed as total losses.

BV senior Timothy Murphy, 18; BV freshman Michael Nemitz, 15; and BV freshman Cody Malone, 15; were passengers in the vehicles and sustained injuries.

Murphy and Nemitz were just released from the hospital on Wednesday, and the other two - Nichols and Malone - are in intensive care at the Nebraska Medical Center, Omaha, said Boyer Valley Superintendent of Schools Deb Johnsen.

Nichols, who was wearing a seat belt, is still listed in critical condition in the intensive care unit at the medical center, a health official said.

On nights of home track meets, participants are released from school and then have free time before they are due to report to the track, said Johnsen.

Authorities said the area where the accident occurred has been utilized by young motorists for thrill jumping. Although that's been popular, it's not known for sure that's what happened in this case.

"None of us had a clue" that students were "hill jumping" in this particular area, Johnson said.

Students at Boyer Valley High School were counseled individually on Wednesday and in group sessions on Thursday, Johnsen said.

"We've been trying to keep a routine and get [the students] back to normal schedules," she said.