

LESSON 9 – CASE STUDIES

9.1 Reynolds County youth killed in ATV accident

Gearing Up Daily News

Stamford - A Stamford boy died Sunday when his best friend accidentally ran into him with an all-terrain vehicle.

At 2:20 p.m., Drew Beaty, 16, was standing in the middle of County Road 610 West, facing Stacy Perkins, also 16, who was driving toward him on an older model ATV, police said.

Perkins told police he at first drove toward Beaty, but then swerved left to avoid hitting him. But Beaty jumped to his right at the same instant, back in front of the vehicle, which hit and fatally injured him.

Beaty was pronounced dead at 3:08 p.m. at Reynolds County Hospital.

Perkins was not arrested, and County Prosecutor, Michael Alford, said he could not yet comment on any possible charges against the boy.

“At this point in time, I don’t see any criminal intent,” said Reynolds County Sheriff, John Oman, who said he would nonetheless submit the case to the prosecutor.

“They were best friends,” Oman said.

Both were sophomores at Stamford High School. Oman said a group of school friends had gathered at a nearby home for a party, and people had been riding the ATV around in the yard. Beaty was well-known in the community, Oman said. At school he had been on the tennis, golf, basketball, baseball, and track teams. He was to receive two awards for academic excellence next week.

9.2 Two ATV riders in hospital

Gearing Up Daily News

Hendricks - Two people were hospitalized after the ATV they were riding was struck by a car Thursday afternoon. Jeff Jones, of 255 Burger Street, and Samantha Henderson, of 278 Burger Street, were still being treated Thursday night for injuries they received in the crash.

Witnesses told police that Vanessa Roland, of 1457 Winchester Ave., was driving southbound on old U.S. 277 when she attempted to turn left onto County Road 13 South shortly after 5:00 p.m.

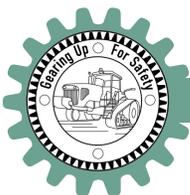
As she turned into the intersection, she struck head-on the ATV Jones was driving northbound on old U.S. 277.

The entire front end of the ATV was smashed under Roland’s car, and Jones and Henderson were ejected from the ATV, striking their heads on the car and the road. Neither was wearing a helmet.

Jones and Henderson were transported to Abilene Regional Medical Center and Hendricks Medical Center, respectively, where they were being treated for massive head injuries. Roland was taken to Hendricks, where she was treated for minor injuries and released.

Sgt. Richard Ezzel of the Abilene Police Department said blood tests were performed on both drivers, but alcohol was not believed to have been a factor in the crash.

Jones was cited for illegally driving his ATV on city roadways.



9.3 **ATV accident claims a boy's life**

Gearing Up Daily News

Beaver – A 15-year-old Gainesville boy died Sunday after his all-terrain vehicle rolled over while being driven up a steep incline in a gravel pit on the family farm near the Oklahoma Toll Road on County Road 650 West, state conservation officer, Bill Reynolds, said.

Gary Ezzell was pronounced dead at the scene on land owned by his parents, Chad and Stephanie Ezzell.

Gary was discovered about 10:00 p.m. Sunday after his parents had filed a missing person's report.

“It appears he had tried to climb a hill in the (gravel) pit, and the machine just rolled over on

him, causing severe head trauma,” Reynolds said.

Gary had been driving his ATV Sunday afternoon. Apparently the accident happened several hours before Gary was discovered. He hadn't been wearing a helmet. The Oklahoma Department of Natural Resources, Beaver County Sheriff's Department, Oklahoma State Police and Beaver Fire Rescue were on the scene.

9.4 **Separate crashes kill two ATV riders**

Gearing Up Daily News

Dallas - A 13-year-old boy from Baird and a woman from Clyde were killed this holiday weekend in accidents involving all-terrain vehicles. A Dallas man was injured in the accident involving the Clyde woman.

They are among a rising number of Americans killed or seriously injured each year in ATV accidents.

Neither of the accident victims was wearing protective gear.

In Baird, Jimmy Stewart, died Monday of injuries he suffered when a four-wheeler he was riding struck a tree.

Police said the accident happened about 11:00 a.m. in the 300 block of Green Street. The teenager apparently lost control of the vehicle, which subsequently struck a tree.

Jimmy was rushed to the trauma unit at Crutchfield Hospital in Cloverdale. He died at the hospital about 2:00 p.m. while undergoing emergency treatment for his injuries.

On Sunday, a Clyde woman was killed and a Dallas man was injured in an ATV accident in Albany.

Cynthia Cooper, 26, of Clyde was pronounced dead at St. Jude's Hospital, according to Sgt.

James Winston of the state police in Cisco.

Cole Redman, 25, of Dallas was in satisfactory condition Monday night at Crutchfield Hospital, a nursing supervisor said.

Redman was driving the ATV south on Joe Route Road when it struck a curb at 10:45 a.m. and skidded into a dirt mound on the road's shoulder, according to Winston.

Cooper and Redman were thrown off the ATV, which came to rest at the base of an oak tree, Winston said.

The Consumer Product Safety Commission reported more than 90,000 ATV-related injuries and 120 deaths nationwide this year.

9.5 **Injuries, deaths from ATVs rising in the state**

Gearing Up Daily News

Monticello - An angry red scar curves across 9-year-old Judd Ashley's abdomen, a harrowing reminder of an accident last June when he was thrown from an all-terrain vehicle and nearly disemboweled.

Horrific injuries to children like Judd, caused by falling off all-terrain vehicles (often called “four-wheelers”), are becoming more common.

Statistics show that over the past six years, over 150 children – mostly 14 years old or younger and not wearing a helmet – were severely injured in ATV accidents around the state.

An increasing number of people of all ages are dying in ATV accidents in the state. Twenty died last year and 18 died in the previous year, according to the State Police.



As stated previously, many of the accidents that occurred were due to a lack of safety equipment. Children in ATV accidents typically suffer head or spinal injuries, which often are permanently disabling.

Children have a special susceptibility to head injuries, for two reasons. First, a child's neck muscles are weaker than an adult's and don't protect their necks as well. Neck muscles don't mature until the age of 14 or 15.

Second, children's heads are larger and heavier in proportion to their bodies than adults' heads are. That means a child thrown from an ATV is more likely to land on his/her head than on any other part of the body.

Wearing protective equipment would help reduce the number of fatal injuries that are seen in the state, but fitting a person to the ATV they are riding and making sure that he/she is responsible enough to operate the ATV will help keep the number of fatalities down.

9.6 Youth pinned under bed of utility vehicle

Gearing Up Daily News

Indian Creek - Ariel Pologne, age 16, was slightly injured when the bed of a small utility vehicle came down on her while she was trying to clear out some debris from the underside of the vehicle. Pologne was working in a cooperative learning program on the Indian Creek Citrus Farm located at 500 W. 300 S., Indian Creek. She is a student at Indian Creek High School.

Pologne told Rene Brooklyn, Field Supervisor, that she had raised the bed to retrieve a branch that had wedged on the underside of the machine. While trying to pull the branch, she grabbed the control level by mistake causing the bed to suddenly drop. Several of the workers in the orchard came to her assistance and were able to raise the bed within a few seconds. The bed was empty at the time, otherwise, according to Brooklyn, the injuries would have been much more severe.

Pologne was transported to Indian River Urgent Care and treated for abrasions.

9.7 Four-wheeler driver escapes serious harm

Gearing Up Daily News

Anson - A rural Anson boy, who was operating a four-wheeler on a county road Monday night, escaped serious injury when it went off the road into a ditch. Robbie Willis, 17, was transported by ambulance to the Taylor County Hospital, suffering from abrasions and head contusions. He was admitted for overnight observations then arrested Tuesday on a charge of operating a vehicle while under the influence, second offense, and under age consumption of alcohol.

According to the accident report, Willis was operating a 1987 four-wheeler on County Road 90210 South, one mile west of Abilene. He lost control of the four-wheeler on a curve and the vehicle went into a ditch. Willis was thrown off.

The accident, reported at 8:02 p.m., was investigated by State Police.

