By Sheri Hink
The Wauneta Breeze

Medical issues are suspected to be the cause of an accident in rural Hayes County Monday afternoon, Oct. 15.

Hayes County Sheriff Thomas Dow reported that a witness saw Marvin Gardner of Hamlet driving very slowly over a hill.

Gardner reportedly went over a fence at the top of the hill into a pasture owned by Bob Hanna. The vehicle traveled downhill through the pasture and became high centered on an embankment. It then caught fire.

Sheriff Dow said it was unclear if Gardner was conscious at the time of the accident.

The sheriff indicated the exact cause of the accident is unknown, but medical issues are speculated as the cause.

The sheriff indicated that when the Wauneta EMS arrived at the scene Gardner was sitting on the ground and was speaking to the EMS crew.

Pasture owner Hanna reported Gardner suffered severe burns as a result of the incident.

Gardner's vehicle appeared to be consumed by the fire.

Gardner was transported to the Chase County Community Hospital by the Wauneta EMS team.

He was later transferred to the Saint Elizabeth Regional Burn and Wound Center in Lincoln.

Staff at the Saint Elizabeth Burn and Wound Center confirmed Gardner was a patient.

Gardner's family declined to comment on his condition.

Pasture fire

Hanna's pasture caught on fire as a result of the incident.

The Wauneta Volunteer Fire Department was called to the scene at 3:33 p.m. MT.

WVFD called in the Palisade Volunteer Fire Department as a mutual aid.

Together, the two fire crews battled the blaze on the hilly pasture terrain.

The WVFD returned home that night at approximately 8:30 p.m. MT.

WVFD and Hanna reported approximately 30 acres of pasture ground burned.