

Wreck backs up traffic



A truck headed west rolled over on I-70 near the west Goodland exit about 3:30 p.m. Thursday, blocking the road and forcing Kansas Highway Patrol troopers to divert traffic to old U.S. 24 between Goodland and Caruso, about four miles west of town, for a short time. The driver Kamoru Akinniyi, 43, and his passenger Kemi Aroworamino, 39, were not hurt. Photo by Anne Selfridge/The Goodland Star-News

Lawrence man finds 18-foot ancient fish fossil



Protected by layers of plaster the 18-foot Xiphactinus Audax was tied down on a trailer outside the Fick Fossil Museum in Oakley. The prehistoric fish was found by Alan Deitrich of Lawrence in the chalk south of Oakley in July.

Phjoto by Jan Katz Ackerman/Colby Free Press

By Jan Katz Ackerman

Colby Free Press

A Lawrence man is trying to have a prehistoric fish fossil he found last month in Logan County declared the state’s “official fossil.”

Alan Deitrich, 58, who returned earlier this week from hunting fossils in China, says he is working to find the Xiphactinus Audax a permanent home.

“My grandpa used to say cream rises to the top,” Deitrich said, “and it’s the good stuff that rises to the top and ends up in a museum.”

Deitrich unearthed the 18-foot Xiphactinus Audax in July in the chalk beds south of Oakley. He said heavy equipment owned by Jay and Arlo Sporer of Sporer Land Development made it possible to unearth all of the fish except the tail. How old the fossil is has not been determined.

The fossil is currently on a trailer in front of First Travel Inn, owned by Jim and Donna Smith of Oakley,

waiting to be taken to a museum for display.

Deitrich said the Xiphactinus Audax of Logan County is the largest one unearthed at one time in the history of paleontology. Calling it a “giant meat-eating fish,” Deitrich said the Xiphactinus Audax lived in an inland sea with reptiles.

“It’s a shame Kansas doesn’t have a state fossil,” he said Thursday. “Kansas is one of the few states which doesn’t have an official fos-

sil.”

Deitrich was raised in Great Bend and has studied fossils since he was 10. A graduate of Wichita State University, he currently is an art student at the University of Kansas.

Deitrich said he named the fossil Jonah in honor of the great fish in the Bible.

“Historians say you have to understand the past to learn about the future,” he said.

Crossword Puzzle

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Clues Across

1. Appear  
5. Unit of hay  
9. Sword with curved handle  
14. Guinea pig  
15. \_\_\_ Chamberlain, Am. Nobel physicist  
16. TV (Brit. slang)  
17. M\_\_\_\_: skinflint  
18. \_\_\_ fide (Latin)  
19. A way to remove  
20. Hotel bathroom souvenir  
23. Tennis star Gibson  
24. Visualized  
25. Short-term memory  
27. Crescent-shaped yellow fruit  
32. Feeling of disgrace  
36. \_\_\_\_y: home for monks  
39. Cain and \_\_\_  
40. Extracts or removes  
41. \_\_\_\_ch: sports instructor  
42. Bird genus  
43. Bird of Paradise constellation  
44. Jet or King  
45. Satiates  
46. Costa Rican beach  
48. Women’s undergarment  
50. Whale ship captain  
53. National dish of Scotland  
58. Monopoly charity  
62. Traditional phone greeting  
63. Polite interruption sound  
64. Stake  
65. Species of iris  
66. Showing sound judgment  
67. World’s longest river  
68. Beneficiary  
69. Crafts partner  
70. Got an A

4. Aromatic resin  
5. Small lynx of N. America  
6. Truant  
7. Bottlenose whale  
8. Rejuv\_\_\_\_: refresh  
9. Bird genus  
10. About aviation  
11. Divulge a secret  
12. If not  
13. Whiskey  
21. Affirmatives  
22. Greek goddess of youth  
26. Nutmeg covering spice  
28. Ancient Japanese religious center  
29. Assist, usually in some wrongdoing  
30. Spanish baby  
31. Expression of sorrow or pity  
32. Watering holes  
33. No. Ca. Indian tribe  
34. \_\_\_\_ Creek State Park, Ohio  
35. Med. Laboratory Science Assoc.  
37. Constrictor  
38. A biting remark  
42. Sir \_\_\_ Newton  
44. Hill tribe of Thailand  
47. Having branches  
49. Verses  
51. \_\_\_\_zi: ancient cliff dwellers  
52. Indian province  
54. African country  
55. Auto\_s: system of relaxation  
56. Mexican tree fiber  
57. Warhorse  
58. S. regalis sport fish  
59. Needham, Ma. Engineering School  
60. Young woman (French abbr.)  
61. Shelter  
62. No longer has

The crossword puzzle brought to you by:



dine-in  
carry-out  
delivery

1803 Cherry  
Goodland, Kan.  
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Highway board has new face

Second-generation Sherman County farmer Bryce Cole has been appointed to the state Highway Advisory Commission by Gov. Kathleen Sebelius.

The commission reviews the condition of Kansas highways and recommends plans for improvement to the secretary of transportation. Cole will finish out the four-year term of Jeff Mason, a Goodland lawyer, who resigned to take another state appointment.

Cole said he was approached by a couple of people, including Mason, to apply for the job. He will represent District 3, which stretches from the state line at Sharon Springs to Hays and north to the Nebraska line. The commission meets 12 times a year, Cole said.

Mason has served on the commission for nine years. During those years, he said, the commission has been involved in redoing of Cherry Ave. to U.S. 24 and County Road 14 in front of the Northern Sun sunflower plant.

“The commission has the ability to veto a particular highway project,” Mason said. “It happened only once in his nine years on the commission to a project north of Salina. It looks at projects fairly closely.”

Mason said he left the commission because he got an appointment to the Judicial Qualifications Commission from the governor. Under state law, a person can only be on one commission, he said.

Cole has been farming for 15 years. His wife Jessica and he have three children, Grace, Eve and Henry. In 2005, they opened the Cole Family Farms Corn Maze and Pumpkin Patch, an agritourism business.

He is a past president of the Sherman County Historical Society, co-chair of Leadership Sherman County, a member of the Goodland City Planning Commission and a member of the Goodland Rotary Club.

“I am excited and am looking forward to representing District 3, which includes Goodland and northwest Kansas,” Cole said.

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Friday, August 25  
5 p.m.

Cowboy Stadium  
\$3.00 per plate (200 Only)  
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Membership

Single \$10  
Family \$15  
Black \$25  
Gold \$50

5:30 1st Football Session  
6:15 Girls Cross Country Exhibition  
6:30 2nd Football Session  
7:00 Boys Cross Country Exhibition  
7:30 3rd Football Session

Classifieds work! 899-2338