

# FIRST GLANCE

## Truck owner arrested after leaving vehicle in train's path

A Centertown man was arrested and held in the Cole County Jail on Tuesday night in connection with train accident in Centertown.

The non-injury accident occurred at 9:27 p.m. at the Marion Street Crossing.

According to Missouri Highway Patrol Sgt. Glen Ward, Stanley W. Blankenship, 28, said he was four-wheeling in a 1991 Ford truck when it became stuck on the tracks, about 300 feet north west of the intersection.

The truck was struck by a westbound Union Pacific freight train. Blankenship was not in the vehicle when it was struck and was not injured.

Officials estimated the train was traveling at a speed of about 40 miles per hour at the time of impact.

Blankenship fled the scene and later was located by police at his home, about one block from the intersection where the wreck occurred.

Ward said the train received minor damage and the truck was damaged beyond repair.

Witnesses reported Blankenship had been driving up and down the tracks for about 15 minutes before the accident.

Cole County Prosecutor Bill Tackett said he expects to file charges after reviewing the reports and is able to determine what the charges will be.