

Three injuries—one with traumatic injuries—were reported in a head-on crash Thursday night south of Linville on Linville Falls Highway. The crash occurred at about 7:50 near Crossnore on US 221, just after Avery dispatch received a call from a motorist reporting a reckless driver who slammed into the back of his pickup, then sideswiped him passing on the yellow line. The Black '94 Jeep pulled back into the north-bound lane, according to witnesses, then suddenly went left of center, slamming into another Jeep, driven by a woman from Newland. Arriving first responders called for two ambulances, and both Jeep drivers were taken to Cannon Memorial, while the passenger in the '94 Jeep was rushed to Watauga Medical Center, trooper Edwards saying that neither of the two men in the first Jeep had on seat belts at the time of the crash, but that the airbag in the second Jeep saved the woman driving. Trooper Edwards charged Mark Lynn Sutton of Newland with DWI, Careless & Reckless, Not wearing seat belts, Passing on the Yellow Line, and Failure to Report an Accident—the first ramming of the man who originally called in the crash. That man, from Elizabethton Tennessee, had been reporting the reckless driving with dispatchers at the time he was rammed and was still on the phone to report the head-on crash.