

The State Patrol has identified the young man killed early this morning in a single-vehicle accident that closed down NC 194 for hours. Trooper Hendrix of the State Patrol identified the driver and lone occupant as 25-year old William Francey, who showed a Rominger Road Banner Elk address on his ID. Hendrix said that it appeared Francey had been traveling north on 194 when he hit the curve too fast, ran off of the road to the right, rolled two-and a half times, landing back in the road on its top. A motorist came upon the 2008 Ford pickup in on its top in the middle of NC 194 between Broadstone and Clarks Creek Roads at about 3:30 this morning, and checked the victim as they called 9-1-1. Gas was leaking from the overturned truck, and both Shawneehaw and Cove Creek were dispatched and flight services put on stand-by, but the assessment of first responders and Watauga Medics arriving at the scene indicated that Francey was deceased, and the highway shut down for the investigation.