Written by Steve Frank
Friday, 12 October 2012 14:39

Two serious accidents in the area Friday, one snarling traffic on NC 105 in Avery, another—an overturned vehicle in the New River in Ashe. In that, the vehicle was found overturned mid-morning at NC194 North at Campbell Road, the lone occupant trapped in the vehicle. Trooper Annas of the state patrol said the wreck actually occurred sometime in the overnight hours, and was not spotted until two women came down Campbell Road just before 10am and saw the overturned car, nose down in the river partially hidden by the bridge. 20-year old Justin Canter was found still alive, but suffering severe head injuries in the wreckage of his ’86 Nissan 300. He was removed from the car by Ashe Rescue and rushed to Ashe Memorial by a Blue Ridge ambulance where he was airlifted by Baptist AirCare to Wake Forest Baptist. Trooper Annas said he was still in surgery mid-afternoon on Friday at the Winston-Salem hospital. Trooper Annas said it appeared Justin Canter ran off of the road to the left, struck a curb near the New River bridge, flipped, and went nose-first into the water. He said the young Creston man was not wearing his seatbelt at the time of the crash, and may have been in the overturned car for hours before being discovered.

In Avery, huge traffic tie-ups came from a tractor-trailer accident there, snarling NC 105 and NC 184, backing up traffic past Linville, back into Banner Elk, and well in to Watauga County. Deputies and officers from a number of departments have been working to carefully unsnarl the traffic while the state patrol has that wreck under investigation, as well.